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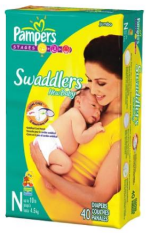

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ALAN CROSS' TOP 10 ALBUMS OF 2009, PG 58

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The true spirit of Christmas

GENEROSITY A 10-year-old girl's wish to spend Christmas with her terminally ill father in Fredericton is coming true thanks to the kindness of a stranger.

The girl, who lives in Mississauga, entered the "Home for the Holidays" contest at The Fox radio station in Fredericton in the hopes of winning a trip to visit her father for Christmas.

When the entry from her stepmother in Fredericton was read on the air, a listener who was touched by the story called and requested that the unidentified girl's name be pulled from the contest.

The man, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he wanted to pay for her trip and the airline tickets have been booked.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 2

World pg 24

Obama humbled

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Torch Relay **Olympic legend**

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Barbara Ann Scott carries the Olympic torch in the rotunda of the Parliament Buildings Thursday in Ottawa. In 1948, at the St. Moritz Winter Olympics, Scott became the first Canadian to win a figure skating gold medal. She was also awarded the Lou Marsh Trophy as Canada's top athlete of the year in 1945, 1947 and 1948. More Olympics coverage, pages 20, 43.

Future is green

Ontario marketing itself to investors as energy-efficient

Climate talks in Copenhagen this week have cast a bright light on the importance of green technologies and their role in reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

It's a theme the Ontario government is running with as part of a $1-million advertising campaign designed to lure U.S. investors to Canada's most populous province.

Print ads, published in high-profile publications such as Business Week, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and Washington Post during and in the weeks leading up to the Copenhagen conference are emphasizing Ontario's research and development tax credits, the province's educated and diverse workforce — and billions of dollars that have been invested in nurturing a green economy.

Chris Morley, a spokesman for Premier Dalton McGuinty, said the advertisements have also run in Germany, France, Japan and the United Kingdom. TV ads in major U.S. markets are also running through November and December.

"This is part of our plan to raise Ontario's profile as the leading jurisdiction in North America on green energy and clean tech," said Morley.

The growth potential is huge, given that, in the past four quarters, worldwide clean technology investments totalled less than $95 billion US, according to U.K.-based research firm New Energy Finance, which was acquired Thursday by Bloomberg LP in recognition of the "fundamental re-engineering" taking place in the world's energy industry.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 26

New York cop fatally shoots suspected scam artist

A plainclothes police officer in New York City chased a suspected scam artist through sidewalks crowded with holiday shoppers and tourists in the heart of Times Square Thursday, killing the suspect after a gunfight.

No one else was injured in the shootout near a landmark Broadway hotel, police said.

The 25-year-old suspect, Raymond Martinez, and his brother were trying to dupe tourists into buying CDs along Broadway and 46th Street just before noon when he was recognized by a sergeant who runs a task force that monitors aggressive begging, police commissioner Raymond Kelly said.

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Local

Sarah Palin coming to Steeltown

Sarah Palin, left, who shook up the 2008 U.S. election when she was picked to be the vice-presidential candidate by John McCain, will be in Hamilton April 15 for a fundraiser for two hospitals. More details will be announced Friday at a noon press conference. The former Alaskan governor recently joined the Washington Speakers Bureau, which represents former president George W. Bush. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Monday's Metro

Comment
Ed Drass talks about TTC issues that affect you in his column In Transit, Mondays.

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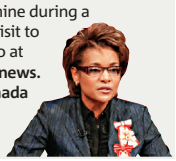
WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean condemns the killing of an activist opposed to a Canadian mine during a state visit to Mexico at **metronews.ca/canada**



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Stormy session ends: Grits eye 2010

But finance minister warns of more tough choices to come in new year

Politicians at the Ontario legislature wrapped up a tumultuous fall session Thursday that was marked by spending scandals, cabinet resignations, deepening economic troubles and an anti-tax protest that turned the chamber into a three-ring circus for nearly two days.

Despite the disruption, the governing Liberals accomplished their key goal — passing a bill that will merge the eight per cent provincial sales tax with the five per cent federal GST next July — over the noisy objections of the opposition.

Finance Minister Dwight Duncan remained unapologetic about the HST, emboldened by a September byelection victory for the Liberals that was widely touted as a referendum on the controversial tax harmonization plan.

VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ontario Finance Minister Dwight Duncan tables the HST legislation today in the legislature.

"No doubt the economy has been top of mind for everyone," he said Thursday.

"I'm optimistic about the coming year. I think we're through the worst. I think we're still not out of the woods completely, but I think we've laid out the right plan."

But there will also be some "tough choices" in 2010 as the government charts a new and painful course to staunch the red ink ahead of the next spring budget.

Duncan's fall economic update forecast a $24.7-billion deficit this year — the largest in Ontario's history — and scrapped the government's plan to re-balance the books by 2015 as plummeting revenues and increased spending emptied its coffers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fines going up for motorists who don't follow rules

OUCH Starting in the new year it will get more expensive for Ontario motorists who do things like run a red light or fail to buckle up.

The maximum fine for failure to stop at a red light, failure to wear a seatbelt or ensure passengers under 16 have bucked up will double to $1,000 from $500.

Those convicted of careless driving and failure to remain at the scene of a collision could be hit with fines as high as $2,000, up from $1,000.

Drivers who fail to pull over and stop for emergency vehicles or follow fire vehicles too closely could be hit with a maximum fine of $2,000, three demerit points plus a possible two-year licence suspension. That's up from the current maximum penalty of a $500 fine.

For subsequent offences within five years, the maximum rises to a $4,000 fine, three demerit points, a two-year driver's licence suspension and a six-month prison sentence — up from the current maximum penalty of a $500 fine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More penalties

- Other existing maximum penalties for these offences will remain, including a two-year licence suspension and six-month jail term.

News in brief

THEFT Two Toronto men have been charged with stealing mail from a Richmond Hill business that included cheques addressed to various businesses in the GTA. Police allege a man was arrested while breaking into a commercial mailbox and stealing the contents. They arrested a second man they allege had several cheques police believe were obtained by crime. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Four face fraud charges

Four Toronto-area residents have been charged in a $5-million fraud investigation. Police say there are 100 alleged victims known to date. Charged are Mohammed Saheed, 42, of Ajax; Winston McDowell, 67, of Markham; Hollis Straker, 62, of Markham; and Devika Dhanaswar, 48, of Ajax. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toyota to boost staff

Company announces 800 new jobs at Woodstock plant

In a sign the troubled Canadian auto industry is beginning to recover with a strong lineup of vehicles North American consumers want to buy, Toyota Canada is hiring 800 more people to raise production of a popular SUV built in southwestern Ontario.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Federal Industry Minister Tony Clement said the Toyota announcement is a recognition of Ontario being "the best place in the world to build cars."

The Japanese automaker said Thursday it plans to introduce a second shift at its new plant in the farm community of Woodstock beginning next March to produce the RAV4.

"Thanks to high demand for this popular vehicle, we are able to increase production in Woodstock," said Ray Tanguay, president of Toyota Canada.

Ray Tanguay

The move is a shot in the arm for the Canadian industry, which has seen the North American carmakers — General Motors, Ford and Chrysler — cut thousands of jobs in the last few years. At the same time, however, Japanese rivals such as Toyota and Honda grew their market share and have expanded their workforces to nearly 11,000 people as they export more and more vehicles to the United States and grow their sales in Canada.

Honda, which employs 4,300 people at assembly and engine plants in central Ontario, makes hot-selling Civic sedans as well as other vehicles in Canada.

At Toyota, the carmaker was the largest seller of cars and trucks in Canada last month for the first time ever.

"We are very pleased to be able to continue our growth and provide jobs in the local community," added Tanguay. "This move demonstrates Toyota's continued commitment to North American production and to building where we sell."

In Canada, sales of the RAV4 have increased 24 per cent in 2009 to a total of 23,748 through November. The sport utility vehicle is the company's second most popular vehicle after the Corolla, also built in Canada, and makes up approximately 14 per cent of Toyota's overall sales.

The new jobs will boost total employment at Toyota Canada to 6,500 people, with 2,000 in Woodstock and 4,500 at the company's other plant in Cambridge, Ont. The automaker said it will begin hiring this month.

"This is a strong and tangible recognition of our highly skilled workforce, our competitive business environment and that Ontario is the best place in the world to build cars," added federal Industry Minister Tony Clement.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Thomas is a useless tank engine for girls, prof says

STUDY Thomas the Tank Engine is pulling girls in the wrong direction, a Canadian professor says in a new study.

After analyzing 23 TV episodes about Thomas and his friends, Shauna Wilton concluded that the mythical island of Sodor was a world of few female characters with a social hierarchy based on fear and minding your place.

"The female characters do tend to be a bit sidelined," Wilton said Thursday. "The show comes out of a particularly historical time period when society was hierarchical and there was a blind following of authority. I want my daughter to think for herself."

Three-year-old Kate was the inspiration for the study, says Wilton, a political science professor at the University of Alberta, Augustana. "My daughter loves the show and loves playing with trains. There are a lot of really positive themes in Thomas, but parents should be aware of the messages that are there."

The messages include a "conservative political ideology that punishes individual initiative, opposes critique and change, and relegates females to supportive roles."

Criticism of sexism in the Thomas stories dates to the 1980s. Britt Allcroft, who formerly produced the TV series now seen in 130 countries, dismissed the allegations back then, saying, "Thomas and friends are neither male nor female. They're magic."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Thomas's origin

- The global Thomas brand of books, video games, movies and a TV series had its beginnings in 1943, when the Rev. Wilbert Awdry in Birmingham, England, started making up stories for his son, Christopher.

News in brief

SWIMMING Nine schools will have to wait until February to learn the fate of their pools after school board trustees on Wednesday voted down a motion to reopen Monarch Park Collegiate's pool in January. The other affected schools are: Carleton Village; Central Technical School; Earl Grey; George Harvey Collegiate; Kensington Community School; SATEC @ W.A. Porter; Western Technical-Commercial School; and Winona/McMurrich public school.

RAID Police raided a bawdy house at 1 Gerrard St. W. on Wednesday. Eleven people were arrested. The operator faces a charge of keeping a common bawdy house; the employees for working in one.

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Police issue warning in Whitby
Police are warning Whitby residents that Daniel Alexander Crawford, 24, is moving in. Crawford just finished a prison term for sexual assault. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Province moves to protect nannies

Nannies bravely told their stories of exploitation, their abusers were exposed, and lawmakers have finally acted.

After a year-long Toronto Star investigation, a tough new Ontario law is now in effect to protect vulnerable foreign caregivers who look after children, the infirm and the elderly.

Anyone who charges a placement or recruitment fee to a caregiver to work in Ontario now faces fines of up to $50,000 and a year in jail.

The Employment Protection for Foreign Nationals Act, which passed into law late Wednesday, also makes it an offence for anyone to confiscate passports and other personal documents from caregivers, and empowers Ontario labour ministry investigators to retrieve them with search warrants.

"Respect for the dignity and worth of others is one of the core things of this bill," Labour Minister Peter Fonseca said, adding the new law "seeks to protect those who protect and nurture others every day of their working lives. They care for our loved ones who cannot care for themselves."

"Respect for the dignity and worth of others is one of the core things of this bill."
Peter Fonseca, labour minister

Bill 210 passed 48-13, with the support of the Liberals and the NDP.

The Tories voted against it, saying the legislation was rushed through Queen's Park and could put many legitimate recruitment agencies out of business.

Highlights of the new law include:

- A ban on fees charged to live-in caregivers by recruiters, either directly or indirectly, or by anyone on behalf of a recruiter.
- Preventing employers from recovering, directly or indirectly through a third party, recruitment and placement costs from live-in caregivers.
- Prohibiting the practice of taking a caregiver's personal documents such as a passport and work permit.
- Prohibiting reprisals against caregivers for exercising their rights under the legislation.
- Allowing live-in caregivers up to three and a half years to make a complaint — an increase from the current two-year period under the Employment Standards Act.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Education **Littlest hoboes**

TONY BOCK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Grade 7 and 8 students from Scarborough's Bliss Carman Sr. Public School spent a day "living" in cardboard boxes to understand what it means to be homeless. They were asking for donations to go to a homeless youth charity. This is part of their learning about kindness, caring and empathy.

TTC debates pro-cheating ads for streetcars

ADVERTIZING Your TTC streetcar could soon be urging you to cheat on your partner, if the people at AshleyMadison.com have their way.

As early as January, these words could be whizzing by you at the streetcar stop: "Life is short. Have an affair." The slogan belongs to AshleyMadison.com, a controversial website that helps married people find extramarital partners. The company is hoping to wrap at least six streetcars with the slogan after the new year, a deal that could net the TTC about $250,000.

According to TTC spokesman Brad Ross, staff have recommended against the ads.

"We don't feel it is appropriate," he said.

The final call will be made by the TTC commissioners, however. Ross said he expects a decision by the weekend.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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December 11th until December 17th

the Bay

Newmarket man charged with sex assault

A Newmarket, Ont., man has been charged with sexual assault following a complaint by a mentally challenged adult male. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sun Life chief urges wider CPP coverage

The president of Sun Life Canada said Thursday that any reform of Canada's troubled pension system should increase coverage for those who need it, but not the government's role in its delivery.

Speaking to the Economic Club of Canada, Dean Connor said Canada's finance ministers should consider a plan that would give insurance companies, like Sun Life, a greater, government-sanctioned role in helping Canadians save for their retirement.

"Millions of Canadians who should be saving for retirement are not," Connor told a lunchtime crowd of industry insiders at a downtown Toronto hotel.

"Millions more are not saving enough. The personal retirement savings and workplace plans which comprise the third pillar of our system are not yet getting the job done," he said.

Dean Connor

"But they can get it done with some straightforward changes."

Pensions will be on the agenda when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty meets with his provincial and territorial counterparts next week in Whitehorse. The ministers will receive the findings of a study on pension reform they requested from University of Calgary economist Jack Mintz last May.

"Some would say the Whitehorse meeting is only Chapter 3 of a 12-chapter book. That may be right, but it's a critically important chapter, so let's talk about how it can be written to get to the right ending for all Canadians, current and future alike," Connor said.

Connor said he was not interested in pushing the government to abandon its historically crucial role, saying that under the best system responsibility would rest on three legs: the government, employers and individuals.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Hunger' for diplomacy: Obama campaign chief

POLITICS The man behind Barack Obama's campaign to capture the world's most powerful office said Thursday that the U.S. president's Nobel Peace Prize shows there's a global "hunger" for diplomacy.

David Plouffe, known as the organizational mastermind who directed Obama's triumphant run for the White House, addressed a business audience in Toronto as the president accepted his honour half-a-world away in Oslo.

Obama became the first sitting U.S. president in 90 years and the third ever to win the prize — some say prematurely.

After chronicling the 2009 U.S. presidential campaign for his audience, Plouffe reflected on the significance of Obama's peace prize.

"It speaks to the fact that there is a huge audience across the world that has a hunger for diplomacy," Plouffe said.

David Plouffe. Barack Obama's 2008 campaign manager, appeared yesterday in Toronto.

"His presidency offers the promise of that, but you have to deliver."

In the aftermath of the election, people had a starry eyed view of the campaign, as it became a memorialized and mythologized event, woven with tales of triumph and celebrity.

Almost a year into office, the same grassroots support and goodwill is being tested.

A rocky rookie year has had the president confronting a shaky economy, job losses, health care debates and, more recently, the decision to send 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan.

"He's not making any decisions based on 2010 or 2012," said Plouffe, who is not a part of the current administration. "I can assure you, if we were, we wouldn't have given a bunch of money to the auto industry or the bankers.

"This is not good politics, but this is what has to be."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Book tour

- Plouffe was in the city to promote his new book, The Audacity to Win, which chronicles Obama's daunting presidential campaign and the relentless grassroots effort that made it happen.

Chinese restaurants targeted by thieves

CRIME The cashier at Congee Wong Restaurant carefully eyes every person who walks in.

The Richmond Hill business, squished into a strip plaza just off Highway 7, was robbed in October. In November, the bandits came back for seconds.

In both incidents, three men rushed into the restaurant, their faces covered with bandanas. Threatening staff and the diners with guns and knives, the thieves snatched the cash from the register before running off.

Police say a group of thieves is behind seven similar robberies in Markham and Richmond Hill since August, and a handful more in northern Scarborough.

Most of the targeted eateries have signs attached to their windows advertising that they're "cash only."

"It's an invitation to robbers," said York Region Police Chief Armand La Barge. "If somebody asks the question to a bank robber, 'Why do you rob banks?' He says, 'That's where the money is.' (These restaurants) is where the cash is."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Prevention

- Officers have visited scores of local Chinese restaurants, making recommendations: Invest in credit card machines, don't leave the back door unlocked, maintain and test surveillance cameras.

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Police seek information in Markham shooting

York Regional Police are searching for a man who fled in a silver Mercedes after a shooting in Markham Wednesday night. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Schools set sights on Chinese PhD students

Canadian universities launch drive in Beijing

Representatives from 14 Canadian universities, including the University of Toronto, will try to attract Chinese doctoral students to their schools during a recruitment mission in Beijing starting Friday, competing with institutions from eight other countries.

And while diversity on Canadian campuses is one reason behind the drive, putting more money into cash-strapped university coffers is another.

Dozens of institutions from various countries, including Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Australia, Germany and France, were invited to the PhD Workshop, organized by the China Education Association for International Exchange and the Association of Chinese Graduate Schools.

The Canadian schools will meet with some of the 500 doctorate students attending the workshop and discuss areas of research, opportunities for innovation and the benefits of pursuing a PhD in Canada, a Foreign Affairs spokeswoman said.

Heather Kelly, director of student services with the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Toronto, said in an email from Beijing she plans to meet with more than 100 students. "The University of Toronto recognizes that the key to innovation is collaboration, partnership, and co-operation with leading global institutions," said Kelly. "So our interest in working with top Chinese institutions is to develop targeted initiatives with universities, whether that be researcher to researcher, educational experiences, student internships or graduate student projects."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Other schools

- York University
- Concordia University
- Dalhousie University
- McGill University
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LIU LIANFEN, XINHUA/XTHE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo distributed by Chinese news agency Xinhua, giant pandas Le Le, left, and Ying Ying enjoy an ice birthday cake at the Ocean Park in Hong Kong in August.

Zoo officials hope to bring pandas to T.O.

WILDLIFE Buoyed by support from the office of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the Toronto Zoo has struck a task force to secure a pair of pandas.

But Coun. Paul Ainslie, who sits on the zoo board, wondered aloud at its meeting Thursday whether raising the needed funds will only divert attention from maintaining the zoo's current exhibits and fulfilling its target of raising $250 million over the next 10 years.

Zoo board chair Raymond Cho showed his colleagues a letter from Guy Giorno, Harper's chief of staff, who wrote: "Our government would be delighted to assist in bringing giant pandas to Canada."

Federal support is essential to strike an agreement with the Chinese, who insist on making deals directly with other national governments.

Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti and Bill Rapley, the zoo's executive director of conservation, education and research, recently returned from China, where they met with zoo officials and laid the groundwork for obtaining pandas.

Zoo staff who analyzed the benefits of a panda exhibit several months ago suggested the cost of a new pavilion and the stiff yearly fee charged by China might outweigh the extra revenue the pandas would pull in.

But Mammoliti said the costs could be substantially lower than what appeared in the analysis. He would like to find private sponsorship for the pandas.

"We believe a grassroots movement will start with Chinese Canadians, and we think that will secure the deal," he told reporters.

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Strong winds deal a blow to Point Pelee
A clean-up was underway in parts of southwestern Ontario on Thursday after a night of strong winds. The wind brought down several trees in Point Pelee, prompting Parks Canada to close the park. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Tiger victims hit again

Police in Calgary say they will reissue trespassing tickets to two men mauled by a tiger after allegedly breaking into the Calgary Zoo. The Crown withdrew the tickets against the men earlier this week, saying they weren't filled out properly. It was a technical error, police said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Probe dealt death blow?

Doubts raised as Afghan prisoner inquiry put off to spring

A public hearing by a military watchdog into the handling of Afghan prisoners was dealt a significant blow on Thursday.

The hearing was rescheduled for the spring — raising fears Ottawa may never let it proceed.

Doubts were raised about its future amid the fallout from Gen. Walt Natynczyk's explosive revelation that a Canadian-captured detainee was indeed abused.

His remarks demolished Tory government assurances that there was no evidence of torture prior to 2007.

Respected war crimes prosecutor Peter Tinsley — the outgoing chairman of the Military Police Complaints Commission — said it was necessary to set a date for the resumption of the inquiry.

But the Tories have yet to appoint his successor — something that could further delay or even kill the proceedings.

"It's certainly unusual, if not unprecedented, for the constitution of a panel hearing such a significant matter to be wilfully altered at this stage," he said.

Tinsley's departure raises questions about whether his successor will be able to get up to speed — or even be interested in continuing the inquiry.

A lawyer for Amnesty International and the B.C. Civil Liberties Association, which initiated the complaint about the transfer of prisoners, said the delay in appointing a new chairman is not a good sign.

Paul Champ said federal lawyers and officials have done their best to obstruct the commission's investigation of what military police knew — or should have known — about the transfer of prisoners to possible torture.

Champ is skeptical the hearings will start on time given the government's track record.

Tinsley was equally doubtful.

"The commission isn't without skepticism and cynicism itself," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Chief of the Defence Staff Walter Natynczyk revealed a Canadian-captured detainee was abused.

"The commission isn't without skepticism and cynicism."
Peter Tinsley

Iggy blasts Tories' 'Soviet' censoring

COMMONS The Liberals turned up the heat on the Tories by introducing a Commons motion to force them to release documents on the detainee issue.

Liberal leader Michael Ignatieff accused the government of censoring with "Soviet zeal."

Ignatieff told the Commons: "For over a year, the Conservatives had credible reports of torture from Canadian diplomats and soldiers … and they did nothing. They must account for that year of wilful blindness.

"Their refusal to get to the truth is costing us our credibility … and is a threat to the honour of Canada, which our troops so bravely uphold every day that they serve."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

"They must account for that year of wilful blindness."
Michael Ignatieff

Top court to rule on man's $6M bill

AIR INDIA The Supreme Court of Canada will hear an application from the B.C. government related to a $6-million legal bill owed by a man acquitted in the Air India bombing trial.

The province and Ripudaman Singh Malik have been in a legal battle over the fees for several years after the government agreed to pay for Malik's legal team up front if he repaid half of those fees.

Malik

An order allowing lawyers to search Malik's home, business and his son's law office is at the centre of the appeal.

A B.C. Supreme Court judge granted a request to search for documents relating to the assets and liabilities of Malik and several family members related to their ability to pay the massive bill.

A B.C. appeals court panel overturned the decision, saying there was no proof the defendants would destroy incriminating documents and ordered all the information returned.

In March 2005, Malik and a co-accused were acquitted in the bombings that killed 329 people on an Air India jet, and took the lives of two baggage handlers at Tokyo's airport.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TAXES Nova Scotia's finance minister says he's looking at a possible increase to the HST. "We have to look at whether to have any increase at all," Graham Steele said. "If we do, how much. If we do, what the timing of it is." On Wednesday, the House of Commons voted overwhelmingly in favour of a harmonized sales tax in Ontario and B.C. The Ontario legislature passed its own legislation on the HST the same day, and B.C. is expected to follow early in the new year. Next July 1, the two provinces will combine their retail sales tax with the GST to form the HST.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Woman faces $1m charges

TAXES A former employee of a northern Manitoba First Nation is facing charges after police alleged she embezzled more than $1 million from the band.

Kimberly Apetagon, 33, is facing charges including fraud and theft over $1 million, as well as falsifying books and documents.

Her husband, Stephen Apetagon, 35, also faces theft and money laundering charges.

The RCMP spent a year investigating.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Supreme Court denies mother's appeal on dental fillings
A B.C. mother has lost her personal battle against the use of mercury in dental fillings. The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear an appeal from Zsuzsanna Holland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Stimulus Falls' a funding test?

Besieged town gets its dollars

If the federal government's $16-billion stimulus spending package is going to work anywhere, it's going to work in Smith Falls, a blue-collar Eastern Ontario community. The town of 9,000 is on the eastern edge of the riding of Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington, a Conservative seat at both the federal and provincial levels.

The federal government has not released precise dollar figures for each community receiving stimulus funds, only ranges for each project. But a Canadian Press analysis that assigned values to projects based on the ranges determined that Smiths Falls came out on top across Canada.

The town and surrounding communities are marked by cranes and pilons blocking off building sites. But so far, even in "Stimulus Falls," the benefits have yet to spread far.

In the last few years, Smiths Falls has seen three major employers close shop, eliminating about 1,700 jobs. First the Hershey Chocolate Factory, then the Rideau Regional Centre, and finally Stanley Tools shut down. A new water-bottling operation has moved into the chocolate factory, but plans to hire 190 people are in shambles.

And while the local construction company is being run off its feet, its hiring needs are in the dozens, not the hundreds required to make up for the closures.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Infrastructure

- The government poured an unprecedented $16 billion into infrastructure, and aimed to spend it as quickly as possible. Municipal governments could apply for the money, as long as they had provincial support, but they had to promise to finish all their work by March 2011.

Quebec **Fatal fire**

JACQUES BOISSINOT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

People look on outside a house after a nine-year old and 15-year-old girl died in a house fire in Donnacona, Que., about 30 kilometres west of Quebec City. A family of seven was inside the house when the fire started.

Who benefited from feds' stimulus spending?

Facts on who benefited most from the Harper government's stimulus spending, according to a study by The Canadian Press:

RIDINGS: A correlation of stimulus money and federal ridings found Conservative-held ridings benefited disproportionately, especially in B.C., Ontario, New Brunswick and Quebec.

KEY WINNERS: Eastern Ontario Tory MP Scott Reid's riding of Lanark-Frontenac-Lennox and Addington; the Nova Scotia riding of Cumberland-Colchester-Musquodoboit Valley, won by Conservative candidate Scott Armstrong in a recent byelection; the B.C. riding of Kootenay-Columbia, represented by Tory MP Jim Abbott. Downtown Ottawa, Vancouver and Winnipeg also fared well.

JOBS: A correlation of stimulus money and unemployment rates found the government did not give any special treatment to areas with high unemployment.

REGIONS: Stimulus money has only trickled into projects in Quebec, despite promises for rapid spending. Officials say they are working to speed things up.

METHODOLOGY: Ottawa has not released a full database of all its funding. Instead, The Canadian Press analysts downloaded data from a stimulus map published by the Privy Council Office, and then cross-referenced it, first by riding and then by the economic regions Statistics Canada uses to measure unemployment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Smith Falls tips
from Canadian Press

- Be located in a Tory riding.
- Find an activist mayor.
- Make sure the mayor is a nice guy who makes governments look good.
- Incessantly lobby the ministers calling the shots.
- Have a solid building plan ready to go.
- Build a good case for why your community needs extra money.
- Be ready to match the federal money when it comes your way.

The federal government has given municipalities until the end of January to apply for stimulus funding.

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Research incentives promised in Manitoba

Manitoba Premier Greg Selinger is promising to set up the most generous research and development tax credit in Canada. THE CANADIAN PRESS

KEITH BEATY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A shopper enters the Sobeys at Queen's Quay in Toronto in this file photo. Sobeys, a subsidiary of Empire Company Ltd., had same-store sales rise 2.7 per cent over the comparable quarter last year.

Empire profit rises 7%

2nd quarter gains for Sobeys owner reach $70.4M

Empire Company Ltd., the owner of Canada's second-largest grocery business, reported Thursday a seven per cent increase in its second-quarter profit, which rose to $70.4 million.

Same-store sales at Empire subsidiary Sobeys Inc., — which operates grocery stores across the country under a variety of banners — increased by 2.7 per cent over the comparable quarter last year.

Empire said its overall net income was the equivalent of $1.03 per share in its second quarter ended Oct. 31.

That's up from $65.6 million or $1 per share in the quarter ended Nov. 1, 2008, when Empire had fewer common shares outstanding.

Empire's revenue increased to $3.87 billion, most of it from the grocery business, up nearly four per cent from $3.73 billion a year earlier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Store brands

- Empire has more than 1,300 grocery stores across Canada under several brands, including Sobeys, IGA, Foodland, Price Chopper and Thrifty Foods.

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Police cruiser rear-ended, officer injured while investigating earlier collision

A police officer was injured Thursday morning when his cruiser was rammed from behind by an SUV at the site of an earlier collision. The cruiser was stopped on Highway 400 near Bradford and had its emergency lights on, prompting the OPP to remind drivers to slow down and yield to emergency vehicles. THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Two people survived this twin-engine plane's crash Wednesday.

Two survive Quebec plane crash

Two people were killed when a small plane crashed in central Quebec, authorities said Thursday.

Two other people who were aboard the Kingair twin-engine plane survived the accident, which took place late Wednesday evening in a wooded area of the Saguenay region.

Toronto-based mining firm Iamgold Corp. confirmed the two injured passengers were its employees, and said the accident occurred near the company's Niobec mine near Chicoutimi.

"The two passengers on board were Iamgold employees who sustained non-life-threatening injuries. The cause of the accident is unknown," the company's statement read.

An official at the military's Joint Rescue Coordination Centre at CFB Trenton said the plane went down around 11 p.m.

Authorities had initially reported three people dead in the crash, but later corrected the total. The victims were both in their 20s and were from Baie-Comeau, Que.

The Trenton official said the plane was trying to land at the airport in St-Honoré, Que., after leaving Val d'Or earlier in the evening. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Oilsands continue to be hot discussion

BACKGROUND Rightly or wrongly, Alberta's oilsands are creating a black, tarry bull's-eye on the back of Canada's negotiating team at the international summit on climate change in Copenhagen.

Oil companies and the province maintain the development is needed and widely beneficial; environmental groups and many scientists suggest otherwise. Some have gone so far as to say the oilsands have turned Canada into a "corrupt petrostate."

Here are some facts on the issue:

- Oilsands deposits underlie three main areas in northeastern Alberta, totalling 140,000 square kilometres (about the size of Florida).
- Not all land must be razed to allow for oil extraction: About 80 per cent of the oilsands will be mined in-situ, a technique that uses injected steam to soften the bitumen underground and pump it out. The gaping, smoky pits often equated with oilsands mines will cover about 500 square kilometres.
- In-situ mines, however, still require roads, pipelines and facilities that consume forest and destroy animals' habitat.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Facts

- Some facts about Alberta's oilsands:
- The resource: Estimated at 173 billion recoverable barrels, the second largest oil deposit in the world.
- Production: The oilsands currently produce more than 1.3 million barrels of oil daily. By 2015, some forecasts suggest production could be three million barrels per day.
- Importance: About half of all oil production in Western Canada comes from the oilsands.

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Ice tunes **Calgary deep freeze**

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A pedestrian waits at a light Thursday in Calgary, where temperatures are expected to plunge as low as -30C this weekend.

Parliament wraps up

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff glides through the lounge at the Toronto Island Airport. He's alone, no luggage except a green binder. He politely converses with travellers.

"Don't you have security?" asks a concerned middle-aged woman. Ignatieff answers with an aw-shucks smile and a shrug.

He was in town this December evening for a Liberal fundraiser, and he's on his way back to Ottawa on the second-last flight. He'll be in Toronto for another event in a few days.

"Would you like to board early?" an attendant asks, and Ignatieff moves to the gate. It's one of the kindest offers he's had all autumn.

As Parliament wraps Friday for the fall session, the leader of the Official Opposition finds himself embattled, his popularity ratings plummeting.

Ignatieff launched this session with a bang: riding high in polls, he threatened to topple Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative minority. The campaign jets were gassed up, and it looked like another federal election only a year after the last one.

But as the holiday recess begins, election fever has fizzled, with the Conservatives stronger than ever and the Liberals wounded and regrouping. Canadians, it seemed, did not want another election and were prepared to punish the Liberals for causing one.

Despite a Conservative jump in the polls that briefly pushed them within reach of a majority, surveys now show the seat standings would not change much if a vote were held tomorrow.

Still, recent polling shows the Conservatives making gains in Quebec, closing the gender gap, and making significant inroads with visible minority communities.

"The biggest lesson (Harper)'s learned is balance, moderation, compromise — these are things that Canadians value," said Harris Decima pollster Allan Gregg.

"The biggest lesson (Harper)'s learned is balance, moderation, compromise."
Allan Gregg, poll expert

The quick cooling of election fever was in large part due to a risky move by the NDP to back the Conservatives for as long as it took to pass $1-billion improvements in employment insurance benefits.

Though that caused discomfort in the NDP base, Leader Jack Layton feels he rightly assessed the public's lack of appetite for an election. He said Thursday he'll take a cooperative approach in the next session, too, when it serves his purposes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HEALTH A new report focuses on efforts by Canadian hospitals to reduce more than 9,300 deaths annually from sepsis, a serious body-wide response to infection that patients often acquire in hospital. It found that more than 30,500 patients were hospitalized with sepsis in 2008-9 (excluding Quebec). One in three dies from the condition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Aviation companies seek compensation for Olympic disruptions

Small aviation companies are lobbying federal officials and politicians, seeking compensation for what they say will be big disruptions due to Olympic security rules. Members of the Air Transport Association say tighter regulations and flight restrictions are going to cost some of them big bucks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Figure-skating practices tapped to raise cash

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

TRAINING Olympic organizers are looking to raise more money from ticket sales by opening up figure-skating training sessions for the 2010 Winter Games.

Seats to seven sessions at the figure-skating venue will be available at a cost of $30 each plus fees.

It will be the only training event open to the general public, said Caley Denton, vice-president of ticketing for the organizing committee.

"It's an environment where athletes enjoy having the crowd there," he said. "It's not like they have secret tactics going on."

Opening up practices to the public is common at figure-skating events, though attendance is usually free or included in the price of the competition ticket.

But organizers are counting on $260 million in revenue from ticket sales to the Games and have also added higher-priced seats to the nightly victory ceremonies as another way to raise cash. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

DRUGS Vancouver police say they've made one of their biggest-ever drug hauls with the seizure of more than 100,000 ecstasy pills, some of them stamped with impressions of the Olympic rings. Police say they discovered the drugs when they responded to a 911 home-invasion call on the east side of the city. Two men were arrested and later released, and charges have not yet been laid. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Torch hits the Hill

More funds for athletes sought from Ottawa

VANCOUVER 2010 Games

Canada's elite amateur athlete community came looking for a sweetheart deal on Parliament Hill.

And who better to light a fire under tight-fisted parliamentarians than "Canada's Sweetheart," 1948 Olympic gold-medal-winning figure skater Barbara Ann Scott?

The 89-pound, 81-year-old octogenarian carried the blazing Olympic torch into the House of Commons in a special ceremony Thursday afternoon that temporarily united warring political partisans while simultaneously bumping the torch relay off its scheduled route in Montreal.

The Olympic torch relay doesn't officially reach the national capital until Saturday. Scott, an Ottawa native and still the only Canadian woman ever to win Olympic gold in singles figures skating, will carry the torch again through the city's western suburbs on Sunday morning.

However, the opportunity for Ottawa's highest-profile lobbying stunt of 2009 was too good to pass up.

Olympic and Paralympic officials, national sport federations and a group representing elite amateur athletes came seeking an annual $22-million increase in federal funding for the Own the Podium program Thursday.

The program already receives $55 million a year in federal funding and recently received an extra $11-million taxpayer injection. It is designed to help push Canada's elite winter athletes to the very top of world rankings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Former Canadian Olympic figure skater Barbara Ann Scott carries the Olympic torch into the House of Commons during a ceremony on Parliament Hill in Ottawa Thursday.

Follow the Olympic torch's journey with an interactive map at: metronews.ca/sports

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Man charged in firebombings of Italian cafés in Montreal
A man has turned himself into police in connection with a string of firebombings of Italian coffee shops in Montreal. Police say Mickendy Demosthene appeared in court Wednesday and was charged with arson and break and enter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ex-aide bent on revenge, trial hears

Senator is alleged to have misused funds to pay worker

The former aide at the centre of fraud allegations against Senator Raymond Lavigne was described Thursday as an intimidating ex-bouncer who wanted revenge.

Louise Martin, another one-time aide, told the senator's fraud trial she was afraid of Daniel Cote, who allegedly worked as Lavigne's personal handyman at taxpayers' expense.

Cote is central to the case against Lavigne, who is alleged to have kept Cote on the Senate payroll while directing him to do work on a waterfront property and accompanying the senator and his wife on a Caribbean vacation.

Lavigne faces charges of fraud, obstruction of justice and breach of trust, related to the misuse of thousands of dollars of public funds. He has been suspended from the Liberal caucus, but still draws his salary from the upper chamber.

Martin described Cote as showing her a police baton he kept in his briefcase, and a pair of black leather fight gloves he kept tucked behind his belt. Cote was once a former nightclub bouncer and joined Lavigne's office in late 2004.

Cote was fired in the fall of 2005, when the Senate fraud allegations publicly emerged and at a time when Cote had been missing work and asking Martin to cover for him.

When he came to clear out his things, he told Martin he would "raise a whole file against the senator." She took that to mean "he was seeking revenge," Martin said.

The court hearing Thursday offered a window into Lavigne's Senate office culture, where loyal assistants did everything from install a door in his Verdun, Que., house on their free time and work out with him before dawn at hotel gyms.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CRIME Police in Sarnia, Ont., have charged a woman with failing to provide the necessities of life following the death of her 16-year-old son in November. They allege the woman found her son unconscious and he remained in that state for about 14 hours before she called for help. The woman's name will not be released in order to protect the identity of her son.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Friends remember slain anti-mining activist

MEXICO A Mexican man who strongly opposed the presence of a Canadian company in his hometown felt sure his activism would lead to his murder but was willing to pay that price to protest what he regarded to be human-rights abuses, friends said Thursday.

Mariano Abarca Roblero, 51, was gunned down in front of his home in southern Chiapas last month.

Family

- Friends say Mariano Abarca Roblero's wife and children fear for their lives, and will likely move out of their home and close the restaurant they operate out of that house.

The activist had been campaigning against a barite mine operated by a subsidiary of Calgary-based Blackfire Exploration. The three men arrested in Abarca Roblero's death have ties to Blackfire. The company denies any connection to the killing and is adamant the mine is being run in an environmentally responsible way.

Friends described the married father of four as a simple, shy man who got involved in the anti-mining movement after witnessing the social and environmental impact of mining on his hometown of Chicomuselo.

"He slowly began realizing the impact of open pit mining on the environment and he began to notice the effects, like lack of water, drying of streams, houses cracked and destroyed as big trucks carrying tonnes of barite through neighbourhoods," said friend Gustavo Castro.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Train service restored

Via Rail says service has been restored between Edmonton and Winnipeg after several CN Rail tanker cars jumped the tracks near Spy Hill, Sask. THE CANADIAN PRESS

N.S. report focuses on black students

'Alarming number' in special programs

There's evidence of an "alarming number" of Nova Scotia's 4,000 black students being placed in special programs for students with academic difficulties, according to a report for the provincial government released Thursday.

Enid Lee, the report's lead author and a consultant in anti-racism education, said it's difficult to know exactly how many teenagers are being incorrectly placed in the programs, known as Individual Program Plans.

Lee said that's because school boards don't keep records identifying the race of their students.

But she said she based her conclusion after seven focus groups in high schools across the province during which she consistently heard from parents who wondered how to get their teenagers out of the special programs.

"Every focus group we met with ... there were groups of people in them where parents said, 'I have a kid in the Individual Program Plan, and I'm not sure if you can get off of it,'" she told a news conference.

Lee, who has 40 years of classroom experience, said it's difficult to get out of the special programs and return to the regular stream where a black student can earn scholarships.

Her report recommends the province identify the number of black students in the special programs, and then look at ways to help them get back into the regular stream.

It also identifies a general shortage of information on black students — such as how many graduate from school — because school boards say they aren't able to collect the statistics.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Racial inequality

- The report comes 15 years after the province acknowledged the school system needed to combat racial inequality. It examined 12 programs that were created by the province after another report in 1994.

Guatemala **Jean pays a visit**

MOISES CASTILLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean, accompanied by Guatemala's President Alvaro Colom, places a flower on a monument Thursday during a welcoming ceremony at the national palace in Guatemala City. Jean is on a six-day official visit to Guatemala.

Bill less than expected: Native band

LEGISLATION A B.C. aboriginal band says proposed legislation that would allow it to launch large-scale, commercial development of its Vancouver-area properties falls short of expectations.

The Squamish Nation says the bill before Parliament doesn't allow it to compete on a level playing field in Vancouver's growing real estate market.

If passed, the legislation would amend the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act to allow for established, provincial regulatory regimes on Squamish Nation lands.

But as Vancouver's Winter Olympics approach, disgruntled aboriginal officials say the bill still would not provide the band with a revenue stream to support those regimes.

Squamish Chief Gibby Jacob calls the measure an important first step, but he says it doesn't go far enough.

He is calling for a new tax to help establish the needed infrastructure.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Reserves

- There are three Squamish reserves — Capilano, Mission and Seymour Creek — on the north shore of the Burrard Inlet across from downtown Vancouver, as well as reserves at Kitsilano (Senakw) and the Sunshine Coast (Chekwelp).

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Crackdown after South African citizenship given away

South Africa on Thursday suspended dozens of officials being investigated for giving citizenship to mainly Pakistani foreigners, nearly a year after Britain warned that corrupt officials were handing out false South African passports. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

No ruling in Polanski hearing

A hearing that could decide the fate of Roman Polanski's long-delayed sex case has ended without a ruling by a California appeals court. The three justices listened to more than an hour of arguments Thursday from attorneys for Polanski, his victim and prosecutors. The judges peppered each attorney with questions challenging their arguments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PONTUS LUNDAHL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dr. Williard S. Boyle, left, receives the Nobel Prize in Physics from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden in Stockholm Thursday.

Light shines on Canadian

NOBEL Canadian scientist Willard Boyle, whose work in optics revolutionized photography, received the Nobel Prize in Physics in Stockholm on Thursday.

Also honoured were a record five women, including a writer who depicted life behind the Iron Curtain and U.S. researchers who showed how chromosomes protect themselves from degrading.

Boyle, 85, shared the award with Americans George Smith and Charles Kao. Boyle and Smith were honoured for inventing a sensor used in digital cameras and Kao won the prize for discovering how to transmit light signals long distances through hair-thin glass fibres.

After receiving his doctorate from McGill University in Montreal, Boyle spent a year at Canada's Radiation Lab and two years teaching physics at the Royal Military College of Canada. He was made director of Space Science and Exploratory Studies at the Bell Labs subsidiary Bellcomm in 1962, providing support for the Apollo space program and helping to select lunar landing sites.

In 1969, Boyle and Smith invented the charge-coupled device, or CCD, the eye of the digital camera found in everything from the cheapest point-and-shoot to high-speed, delicate surgical instruments.

"It revolutionized photography, as light could now be captured electronically instead of on film," the Swedish Academy said in its citation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Humbled and hawkish

Obama accepts Nobel Peace Prize, defends war in Afghanistan

U.S. President Barack Obama accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on Thursday in Norway with a striking defence of war, saying that evil must be vigorously opposed even as he made an impassioned case for building a "just and lasting peace."

"I face the world as it is, and cannot stand idle in the face of threats to the American people," Obama told his audience in Oslo's city hall as he was newly enshrined among the world's great peacemakers. "For make no mistake: Evil does exist in the world."

Pronouncing himself humbled by such an honour so early in "my labours on the world stage," Obama nevertheless turned his Nobel moment into an unapologetic defence of armed intervention in times of self defence or moral necessity.

The hawkish message was an inevitable nod to the controversy defining his selection: an American president, lauded for peace just as he escalates the long, costly war in Afghanistan.

It was a jarring moment when Obama, in the midst of the ceremony, said of his troops in Afghanistan: "Some will kill. Some will be killed."

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. President Barack Obama sits in front of photos of past Nobel Peace Prize winners at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo, Norway, Thursday.

"A nonviolent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies."
Barack Obama

He lauded previous Nobel winner Martin Luther King Jr., as a preacher of nonviolent action. But he added, "A nonviolent movement could not have halted Hitler's armies. Negotiations cannot convince al-Qaida's leaders to lay down their arms."

"To say that force is sometimes necessary is not a call to cynicism, it is a recognition of history."

At the same time, he also stressed a need to fight war according to "rules of conduct" that reject torture, the murder of innocents and other atrocities.

"We lose ourselves when we compromise the very ideals that we fight to defend," he said. "And we honour those ideals by upholding them not when it's easy, but when it is hard."

He drew laughter when he acknowledged "the considerable controversy that your generous decision has generated."

"My accomplishments are slight," Obama said, by comparison to such "giants of history." In addition to other Nobel winners, he said the unrecognized masses who fight for peace are "far more deserving." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

BAGHDAD Iraq announced plans Thursday to move members of an Iranian opposition group to a former desert detention camp in a sharp escalation of pressure on the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama blames schedule as he can't be everywhere a Nobel winner is needed

NORWAY U.S. President Barack Obama's decision to break with tradition and not follow the lead of past Nobel Peace Prize winners bewildered some Norwegians. Others thought he was being impolite.

Obama had quite a whirlwind day Thursday in Oslo — he signed the Nobel guest book, huddled with Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, met with King Harald V and Queen Sonja, and delivered an acceptance speech after he was formally presented with the prize.

He also was joining the king and queen at an evening banquet.

But he skipped out on a host of other activities, including lunch with the king, a news conference at Oslo's Grand Hotel, CNN's traditional interview with the prize winner and a Save the Children benefit concert, where organizers replaced him with an Obama cardboard cutout.

Obama also won't be around for Friday's Nobel Concert.

Obama blamed his schedule. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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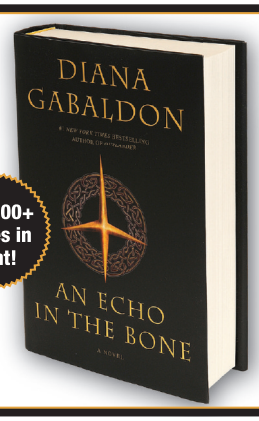

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No bonuses for top executives

Goldman Sachs Group's top executives will not receive cash bonuses this year, as the Wall Street giant bows to sharp criticism over its pay practices. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China reining in church growth?

First mega-church closed, co-pastors jailed

Towering eight stories over wheat fields, the Golden Lamp Church was built to serve nearly 50,000 worshippers in the gritty heart of China's coal country.

But that was before hundreds of police and hired thugs descended on the mega-church, smashing doors and windows, seizing Bibles and sending dozens of worshippers to hospitals with serious injuries, members and activists say

Today, the church's co-pastors are in jail. The gates to the church complex in the northern province of Shanxi are locked and a police armoured personnel vehicle sits outside.

The closure of what may be China's first mega-church is the most visible sign that the communist government is determined to rein in the rapid spread of Christianity, with a crackdown in recent months that church leaders call the harshest in years.

Authorities describe the actions against churches as stemming from land disputes, but the congregations under attack are among the most successful in China's growing "house church" movement, which rejects the state-controlled church in favour of liturgical independence and a more passionate, evangelical outlook.

ANDY WONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police armoured vehicle is seen parked next to a closed church in Shanxi province, China, last Sunday.

While the Chinese constitution guarantees freedom of religion, Christians are required to worship in churches run by state-controlled organizations: The Three-Self Patriotic Movement for Protestants and the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association for Roman Catholics.

But more and more Chinese are opting to choose their own churches, despite them being technically illegal and subject to police harassment. Christians worshipping in China's independent churches are believed to number upwards of 60 million, compared to about 20 million who worship in the state church, according to numbers provided by scholars and church activists.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

NETHERLANDS A man who says he spent two decades collecting Ecstasy pills of all colours and shapes as a hobby has turned to police for help after they were stolen — because he says some of them are poisonous. Police say the 46-year-old man decided to report the theft despite the illegal nature of the collection because he was worried about the possible consequences if anybody were to swallow one of the poisoned pills. It was not immediately clear why about 40 red-and-white pills out of the 2,400-pill-strong collection would be poisoned, but the police say they fear the drugs could be lethal if swallowed. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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15 mine workers trapped in Turkey

A news report says 15 workers were trapped when a shaft collapsed in a mine in western Turkey. NTV television says the collapse occurred at a mine in Deveci village in western Bursa province Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

$10B climate fund debated

Developing nations want more help on environment

Go Green

European nations struggled to pin down their joint contribution to a $10-billion climate fund for poor nations as debate over financing heated up Thursday in global warming talks.

How to distribute money for poor nations to deal with climate change is one of the key stumbling blocks at the UN conference in Copenhagen, where 192 countries are trying to negotiate a climate pact.

As the European Union pressed its less affluent eastern members to give more to the bloc's joint contribution, American billionaire George Soros said the proposed $10 billion in fast-track funds for developing countries fell short of what's needed.

Soros, one in a line of international notables visiting the conference, warned the gap between developed and developing nations on financing "could actually wreck the conference" in Copenhagen.

"It is possible to substantially increase the amount available to fight global warming in the developing world," he said. "All that is lacking is the political will. Unfortunately, the political will will be difficult to gather because of the mere fact that it requires congressional approval in the United States."

The climate change financing is intended to provide money for poorer nations to build coastal protection, modify or shift crops threatened by drought, build water supplies and irrigation systems, preserve forests, improve health care to deal with diseases spread by warming, and move from fossil fuel to low-carbon energy systems, such as solar and wind power.

Developing nations are pressing the U.S., Europeans, Japanese and others for more upfront money and for assurances about long-term financing.

Industrialized countries so far are talking only about a quick package — three years of funding at $10 billion a year.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHAITANYA ANAND/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman carries firewood and crosses waste water flowing out of industrial units Thursday in Jammu, India.

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Stolen emails embolden climate change skeptics

Go Green

CLIMATEGATE At a critical time, the uproar over stolen emails suggesting scientists suppressed contrary views about climate change has emboldened skeptics — including U.S. congressional Republicans looking to scuttle President Barack Obama's push for mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases.

The email brouhaha, dubbed "Climategate" by doubters, comes as U.S. delegates to the international climate conference in Copenhagen are trying to convince the world the United States is determined to move aggressively to rein in heat-trapping pollution. To counter the delegates, a group of Republican lawmakers is going to Copenhagen to argue against mandatory greenhouse gas reductions.

The climate skeptics gained political momentum when former Republican vice-presidential candidate Sarah Palin said Obama should boycott the negotiations in Denmark and "not be a party to fraudulent scientific practices" — a clear reference to the purloined emails from computers belonging to scientists at a British climate research centre.

Obama is going anyway.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

WEATHER The El Nino climate phenomena has strengthened and is expected to last into early 2010, the U.S. government said Thursday. El Nino is a periodic warming of the water in the tropical Pacific Ocean accompanied by changes in air pressure and winds that can affect weather worldwide.

AL-QAIDA Five young American Muslims arrested in Pakistan met with representatives of an al-Qaida-linked group and asked for training but were turned down because they lacked references from trusted militants, a Pakistani law enforcement official said Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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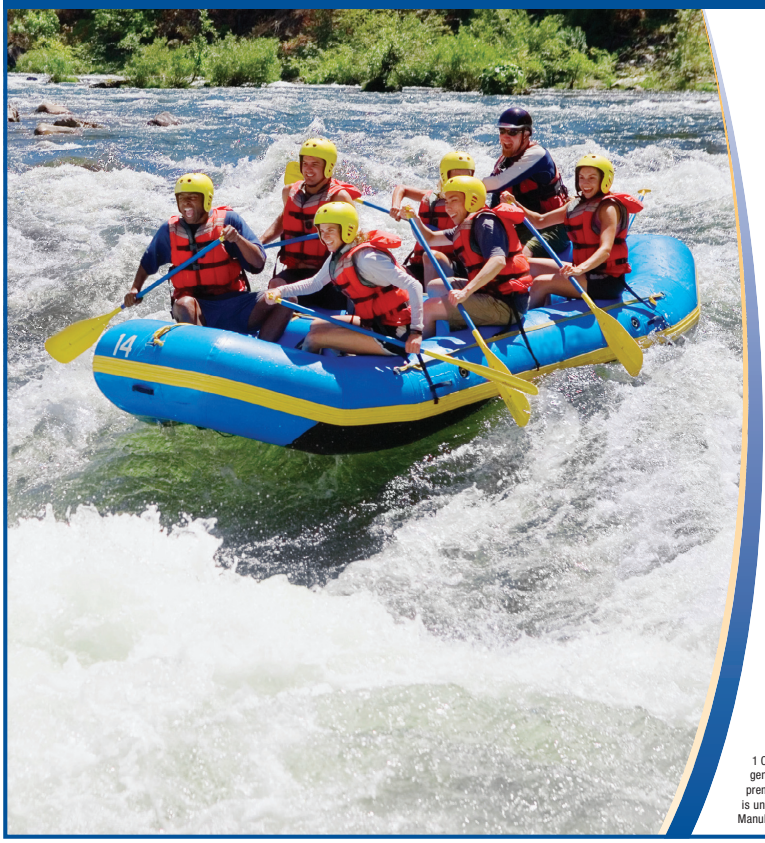

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Benedict sees improvement in Cuba

Pope Benedict XVI said Thursday there are growing signs of religious freedom in Cuba. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran threatened with new sanctions

Apparent violations prompt tough talk

The United States, Britain and France on Thursday warned that Iran risks increased sanctions unless it immediately complies with a series of Security Council resolutions regarding its nuclear program.

Ambassadors from the three countries made their comments at a Security Council meeting after a sanctions committee report to the council on Thursday found an "apparent pattern of sanctions violations involving prohibited arms transfers" over the past three months.

"There is no longer any reason to wait" to consider deeper sanctions, France's Ambassador to the UN Geraud Araud told the council.

"If Iran continues to do everything it can to violate five Security Council resolutions ... we must move on to a new resolution involving sanctions."

Geraud Araud, France's ambassador to the UN

While Thursday's report dealt mainly with the interdiction of two vessels carrying weapons from Iran and headed for Syria, recent revelations of an undeclared uranium enrichment plant near the city of Qom and country's recent declaration that it intends to build 10 more plants stirred the most concern.

"If Iran continues to do everything it can to violate five Security Council resolutions, if it continues to refuse the slightest confidence measures, to refuse dialogue, transparency after the major revelations that have just been made, we must draw all of the necessary conclusions and that means we must move on to a new resolution involving sanctions," Araud said.

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Susan Rice said that while the United States remained committed to engaging Iran and reaching a diplomatic solution, "the time is short."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cuba **Human Rights Day demonstration**

JAVIER GALEANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Surrounded by people, European Union diplomat Chris Stimpson, from Great Britain, drives a car as he leaves a demonstration organized by dissidents to commemorate the Human Rights Day in Havana, Cuba on Thursday.

Israel offers funds to settlers

Israel's prime minister on Thursday offered additional funds and new social benefits to tens of thousands of Jewish settlers in a move seen as an attempt to soothe tensions over new restrictions on construction in the West Bank.

Benjamin Netanyahu unveiled the proposal a day after thousands of settlers and their supporters demonstrated against the West Bank building restrictions outside his Jerusalem residence.

Netanyahu infuriated settlers and their backers two weeks ago when he imposed a 10-month moratorium on the construction of most new homes in the settlements. He said the freeze was meant as a gesture to bring the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

The Palestinians say the Israeli freeze is insufficient because it excludes east Jerusalem and more than 3,000 homes already under construction in the West Bank. The Palestinians claim both areas, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war, for a future state. They insist on a total freeze before peace talks resume.

Netanyahu's proposal Thursday appeared to do little to ease the anger of settlers, who have grown increasingly strident in their attempts to block building inspectors from entering their communities to enforce the ban.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protestor arrested

- Also Thursday, Israel arrested Abdullah Abu Rahmeh, the leader of the most persistent Palestinian protests against Israel's West Bank separation barrier.

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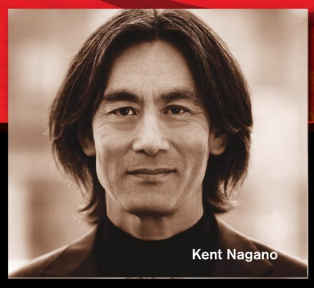

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Charity director shot dead in Russia

Russian investigators say the director of a charity that helps victims of political repression has been shot dead. Investigators say 54-year-old Gennady Prudetsky was found dead in his car in the Siberian city of Kemerovo. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. judge finds Pentagon in contempt of court

PRISONER A federal judge has found the U.S. Defence Department in contempt of court for failing to videotape the testimony of a prisoner held at Guantanamo Bay.

U.S. District Judge Gladys Kessler is demanding a detailed explanation of why the Pentagon failed to conduct the taping as she had directed.

The detainee, Mohammed al-Adahi of Yemen, is challenging his indefinite detention at the prison in Cuba.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flu less severe: Study

Swine flu is far less dangerous than originally feared, British officials said Thursday — about 100 times less lethal than the 1918 Spanish flu.

To determine how deadly the virus is, the British health department tracked all reported swine flu patients hospitalized between July and November. In a paper published online in the British journal, BMJ, experts estimated that out of every 100,000 infected people in Britain, about 26 died.

That is about 100 times less deadly than the devastating 1918 Spanish flu, which killed at least 50 million people worldwide. And swine flu appears to be nearly 10 times less fatal than the flu pandemics in 1957 and 1968, the British numbers showed.

Pandemic

- A pandemic is a measure of how widely a virus spreads, not its severity. Because flu viruses evolve constantly, swine flu could mutate into a more dangerous form.

Flu Outbreak

Earlier this week, American researchers released a similar analysis of the virus and said swine flu, or H1N1, may turn out to be the mildest pandemic on record. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated swine flu has a lower death rate than seasonal flu.

British officials also said swine flu cases fell by about half last week, with an estimated 11,000 new cases. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distillery **Whisky in the jar**

KRISTY WIGGLESWORTH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andrew Nelstrop, managing director of St George's Distillery displays a bottle of English single malt whisky, at the distillery in Roundham near Thetford in England Thursday. After three years maturing, the whisky is the first release of English single malt whisky in around 100 years, and some 2,000 of the decanter-style bottles have already been ordered by collectors.

Media trade journal's ink runs dry after more than a century

MAGAZINES The Nielsen Co. is selling some of its most prominent trade journals — including The Hollywood Reporter and Billboard — and shutting down Editor&Publisher, which has chronicled the newspaper business for 108 years.

In all, Nielsen is selling eight titles to e5 Global Media LLC, a new company formed by private equity firm Pluribus Capital Management, and Guggenheim Partners, a financial services company. Nielsen said James Finkelstein, who founded Pluribus this year with George Green and Matthew Doull, will serve as e5's chairman.

Spokesman Gary Holmes said Nielsen is still reviewing its properties to make sure the company is focused on businesses with "the highest potential for growth."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAN GOODMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An issue of Editor&Publisher, which is shutting down after 108 years, lies on top of newspapers in New York Thursday.

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Departs Dec 16/swg/wg.

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 4-Star $525 — *Coral Sol De Plata* + taxes & fees $320
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Atlantic City Christmas Air + 5 Nights $179 — *Ballys Atlantic City* + taxes & fees $118
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Media shield bill clears U.S. Senate committee

A bill to protect reporters' confidential sources in federal court has cleared the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. The panel ended months of stalemate Thursday and sent a so-called media shield bill to the full Senate. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rape campaign helped keep Mugabe in power: Rights group

ZIMBABWE Supporters of Zimbabwe's notorious dictator helped stave off their leader's electoral defeat in 2008 by embarking on a "systematic and widespread" campaign of sexual violence against women affiliated with the leading opposition party, a prominent human rights group alleged Thursday..

Aids Free World outlined its accusations in a 64-page report which details a well-co-ordinated campaign of rape encompassing the entire southern African country.

Interviews with 70 rape victims and two witnesses show that supporters of President Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party designed their strategy to target women who were directly linked to the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, the report said. MDC members and supporters were savagely beaten and often abducted to camps where they were subjected to frequent gang rapes, the report said, adding that the attackers explicitly stated they were acting on political motives.

Stephen Lewis, co-founder of Aids Free World and former Canadian ambassador to the United Nations, said the situation in Zimbabwe is unlike anything he has experienced in his long diplomatic career. "I've never heard of a campaign of rape unleashed against women simply because they were affiliated with a political party. That seems to me to be beyond the pale of human conduct, and yet that is exactly what Robert Mugabe did," Lewis said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARIEL SCHALIT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A premature baby is monitored at the Sourasky Medical Center in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday. Doctors at the centre measured the energy expenditure of 20 infants born preterm while listening to Mozart in their incubator and compared it to the amount of energy they spent without the music.

Babies do better with Mozart, study finds

Is Mozart good for babies? Doctors at the Tel Aviv Sourasky Medical Center measured the energy expenditure of 20 infants born pre-term while listening to Mozart in their incubator.

They compared that figure with the amount of energy they expended without the music.

But the scientists did not test a control group to measure the energy used by babies who didn't listen to Mozart at all.

Among the babies in the study, the findings showed Mozart lowered the quantity of energy they used, meaning the babies may be able to increase their weight faster.

"While listening to this specific music, a baby can have a lower energy expenditure and hopefully he will gain weight faster than without music," said Dr. Ronit Lubetzky, one of the main researchers in the study, which was published in the current issue of the medical journal Pediatrics.

Mozart

The researchers used as a starting point a controversial 1993 study that showed college students improved their IQs by listening to Mozart's sonatas for 10 minutes.

Those findings sparked a craze that saw droves of parents buy Mozart CDs in a bid to boost their children's brain power."

Later studies challenged what became known as "the Mozart effect," saying classical music can't increase basic intelligence among children or adults.

The purported positive effects of Mozart's music is what drew the Israeli researchers to the topic.

In their article, they note that the repetition of the melody in Mozart's compositions, is less frequent among other classical composers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Austria passes same-sex civil unions law

Austria's parliament passed legislation Thursday allowing same-sex couples to enter into civil unions, a move hailed by proponents as a historic win for gay rights in the country. Of the 174 lawmakers who cast ballots, 110 voted in favour of the bill, and 64 voted against it. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

70 villagers taken hostage

Ex-militiamen demand charges be dropped against them

Government-armed former militiamen wanted for murder and banditry took more than 70 villagers and children hostage Thursday from a southern Philippines village, demanding charges be dropped against them before they would free the captives.

The abductions raised fresh questions over the government's long-standing policy of arming civilian volunteers to protect against insurgencies. Just the day before, 100 other militiamen were accused of slaughtering civilians in the country's worst political massacre.

Hours after the kidnapping Thursday, the gunmen freed the 17 children they held after talking with a government negotiator. They continued to hold 57 hostages, most of them women.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dismissed militiamen

- The 15 hostage-takers in San Martin hamlet in Agusan del Sur province are former militiamen who had been dismissed and turned to banditry and extortion, targeting mining and logging companies, said police Chief Superintendent Jaime Milla.

Athens **Garbage strike**

DIMITRI MESSINIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Greek Orthodox priest walks past a pile of garbage Thursday in Syntagma Square, Athens. Piles of trash have appeared around the Greek capital following a strike by garbage collectors demanding longer-term job contracts. An Athens court declared the strike illegal Thursday, citing public health concerns.

Father identifies suicide bomber as Danish-Somali

SOMALIA A suicide bomber who killed 24 people last week at a university graduation ceremony in Somalia's capital was a Danish citizen of Somali descent, Somali's Information Minister Dahir Gelle said.

The bomber was identified by his father from a photo of his body.

According to Denmark's Politiken newspaper, the man had come to Denmark at the age of five and was in his late 20s.

Suicide bombers were virtually unknown in Somalia until 2007. Gelle said many attacks are carried out by young Somalis who have grown up abroad and may hold foreign citizenship.

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Comment

Monster home horrors

Council to decide on new zoning bylaws in new year

UrbanCompass

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

City planners have recommended zoning changes that will make monster homes much more frequent.

The march of the monster homes, like a bad horror movie, seems to be on city council's agenda.

Monster homes are places that are too big, that don't fit in a neighbourhood, that loom over surrounding houses. They get built because someone has found a way to sneak them through a loophole in the zoning bylaw.

But city planners have recommended zoning changes that will make monster homes much more frequent. The planners are rationalizing the mess of zoning bylaws from the six municipalities amalgamated into the megacity in 1998 and they want new rules to replace the bylaws that have shaped the ways neighbourhoods feel and look. They are repeating the common mistake of the megacity that one size fits all.

One current rule for older neighbourhoods is that the maximum allowable height of a house is measured halfway up a peaked roof. This encourages roofs to be sloped, which, studies show, makes houses feel more friendly. The new rule proposed is a height limit of either 10 or 11 metres (33 or 37 feet) taking no account of sloping roofs.

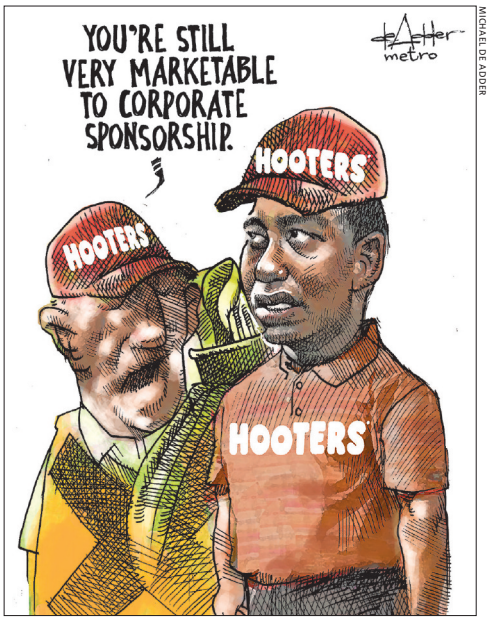
The result of measuring things this way is that houses will have flat roofs, and will be three or four storeys high. They will be monsters to surrounding houses.

Another current rule in many neighbourhoods is that the total number of square feet of floor space in a house must be less than two-thirds of the number of square feet in the plot of land. (This is known as "density," expressed as a density of 0.6.) At two-and-a-half storeys, a house would occupy 25 per cent of the lot.

What's proposed is that new houses occupy one-third of the plot of land, and if they have three or four full storeys, that makes a density of either 0.9 or 1.2, which is 50 per cent or 100 per cent greater than presently allowed. It's like a gift to developers.

City council will decide in the new year on these new rules. Surely we don't need more monsters among us.

John Sewell is a former mayor of Toronto; torontoletters@metronews.ca.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Not such a rosy picture for Aboriginals

Bernd Christmas

Poverty is a fact of life facing many Aboriginal Peoples in Canada.

The UN recently ranked Canada fourth on its quality of life ranking and paints a rosy picture. Officially called the Human Development Index, it measures criteria such as life expectancy, literacy, school enrolment, gender parity and the economy to get a snapshot of a country's quality of life.

Let's look at this from the perspective of the Aboriginal community in Canada. Statistics show the Aboriginal infant mortality rate is 1½ times higher than the Canadian infant mortality rate. An Aboriginal man will die 7.4 years earlier than a non-Aboriginal Canadian. An Aboriginal woman will die 5.2 years earlier than her non-Aboriginal counterpart.

Unbelievably, 70 per cent of Aboriginal students on-reserve will never complete high school. Graduation rates for the on-reserve population range from 28.9 to 32.1 per cent annually. About 27 per cent of the Aboriginal population between 15 and 44 years of age hold a post-secondary certificate, diploma, or degree, compared with 46 per cent of the Canadian population within the same age group

As for gender parity to date, S.67 of the Canadian Human Rights Act does not apply to First Nations, thereby greatly hindering any advancement toward gender parity.

On economic terms, unemployment rates for all Aboriginal groups continue to be at least double the rate of the non-Aboriginal population. Aboriginal persons living in a family setting are about three times more likely to have incomes below the poverty level than is the case for other Canadians. An Aboriginal person earns, on average, an income of $20,940 versus that of a non-Aboriginal of $35,872 — the median income is $14,477 versus $25, 955 respectively. Or in other words, 80 per cent have incomes below $30,000 per year.

Statistics on the health of Aboriginal Peoples is grim. The suicide rate is more than twice the Canadian rate. Suicide is now among the leading causes of death among Aboriginal youth between the ages of 10 and 24, with the rate estimated to be five to six times higher than that of non-Aboriginal youth. Diabetes is at least three times the national average. Tuberculosis rates are eight to 10 times higher than those for the Canadian population.

It is wonderful that Canada is held in such high regard by others, but once you start to peel back the layers, an uglier picture emerges … Aboriginal Peoples' poverty.

Bernd Christmas is a Mi'kmaq lawyer practising aboriginal and corporate law. www. berndchristmaslawgroup.com

Worth mentioning

Guidelines unveiled for Spanish grammar

Can a Barcelona truck driver be expected to speak like a Buenos Aires banker? Can rules be imposed on a language spoken by 400 million people stretching from Madrid to Manila?

The academic overseers of the language of Cervantes have taken an ambitious stab at it, unveiling their first Spanish grammar guidelines in nearly 80 years.

The fruit of their toil is a nearly 4,000-page tome in two volumes presented Thursday, with yet another to come out next year.

It was produced by the Spanish Royal Academy and 21 sister organizations in Latin America and other countries where Spanish is spoken and has taken them 11 years to compile.

The task undertaken by the academics was so gargantuan that the final product not only is spread into three volumes, but also comes in two smaller sizes: A 750-page manual geared toward students and teachers of Spanish, and a simplified 250-page version aimed at the general public.

20 The book is billed as a sort of linguistic map that painstakingly documents today's Spanish in all its richness — there are nearly 20 ways to say ballpoint pen, for instance — and how it varies from country to country, or within one, or from one social class to another.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Investors give CIT shares a boost

CIT Group Inc. shares jumped Thursday in the U.S. lender's first day of trading after emerging from bankruptcy protection. Shares rose $2.39, or 9.4 per cent, to $27.89 in morning trading. The shares opened at $25.50. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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Record high debt load worries central bank

Mounting governmental and household debt are posing new risks to the stability of financial systems, the Bank of Canada said Thursday in its most recent analysis.

The central bank's semi-annual Financial System Review finds that overall conditions have improved in the short term since it last reported in June. But it adds that record-high debt by Canadian households pose an elevated medium-term risk if a second financial or economic shock were to materialize.

35% Canada remains in a fiscally strong position in relation to many economies, with a debt-to-gross domestic product ratio projected to peak at about 35 per cent.

It repeats Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney's warning about Canadians getting in over their heads with large mortgage commitments. The bank warns that rates aren't going to remain at historic lows.

And the bank says lenders should be careful about extending mortgage loans even if they are insured. That's because a borrower's default on mortgages would impact other loans.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/CANADIAN PRESS

Donald Guloien, Manulife's president and chief executive.

Manulife expands presence in China

INSURANCE Manulife Financial announced Thursday it has expanded its presence in China yet again.

Manulife-Sinochem Life Insurance Co., a joint venture led by the Canadian insurance company, has received approval to operate in the city of Jinhua and was given licences for five satellite offices in three provinces.

Jinhua, with a population of 4.6 million, is a communications centre in southeast China and is one of the major hubs of land transportation in the country.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business in brief

CANCER DRUGS Critical Outcome Technologies, a pharmaceutical company focused on cancer drugs, said it lost $976,678 or two cents a share in the quarter ended Oct. 31 due to increased expenses, compared with a loss of $725,002 a year earlier.

U.S. ARMY The U.S. army has awarded contracts worth $5.7 million to OSI Geospatial Inc., an Ottawa-based company whose technology integrates live visual data with any combination of sensor data, imagery, maps and charts.

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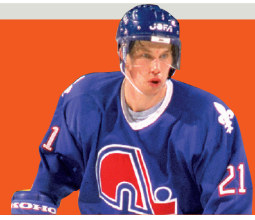
Nicklaus on Woods: "None of my business"

Jack Nicklaus says the fallout over Tiger Woods' car crash and allegations of extramarital affairs is "none of my business." "Our public is pretty forgiving at times," Nicklaus said yesterday. "Time usually heals all wounds. I think the hardest thing is obviously his family. That's a private matter for him and his family." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports



NHL keen on Quebec City?

Quebec's premier says he is now confident the NHL is keen on bringing a team back to Quebec City. Jean Charest said he discussed the issue with league commissioner Gary Bettman last week. The premier says Bettman seemed sincerely interested in bringing pro hockey back to the provincial capital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Woods scandal sparks surge in web traffic

GOLF Like any good celebrity scandal, the Tiger Woods drama has triggered a spike in traffic to websites offering details of his Thanksgiving weekend car crash and his alleged extramarital affairs. The lift will likely be fleeting, though, as the shock of the story wears off.

One of the most heavily trafficked sites has been Woods' own site, where he has posted his only public comments about his crash and admitted to "transgressions." The site got 488,000 unique visitors the week of his crash, up from fewer than 11,000 the week before, according to The Nielsen Co.

Searches

- Yahoo says searches for Woods' name have increased nearly 4,000-fold over the last 30 days.

The Orlando Sentinel, which serves the area of Woods' home, scored about 1.2 million unique visitors the week of the crash, more than two times the number of visitors the week before, Nielsen said.

Meanwhile, visits to the entertainment site TMZ.com and sports news site Deadspin.com, which both had scoops on the Woods story, were up more than 50 per cent, according to Hitwise, another web analysis firm.

Time Warner Inc. says its Golf.com website, which averages 2.4 million unique viewers a month, has seen traffic jump sevenfold since the story about Woods broke.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jarrett a Jack of all trades

Guard able to contribute where ever Raptors need him

The day he arrived in Toronto, Jarrett Jack said he would do whatever the team needed from him.

He would come off the bench, start if it was needed, play either of two guard positions.

One-quarter of the way through his first season, he has lived up to his end of the bargain.

Pressed into service as the team's starting point guard in the absence of the injured Jose Calderon for the last two games, the six-foot-three Jack has backed up Calderon when they've both been healthy and he's played the off-guard spot alongside Calderon at times as well.

It makes getting ready for a game a fun chore.

"I don't think so," he said when asked if it's difficult to adjust to the two situations. "I think you have to have a mindset going into that particular game of what your role is going to be.

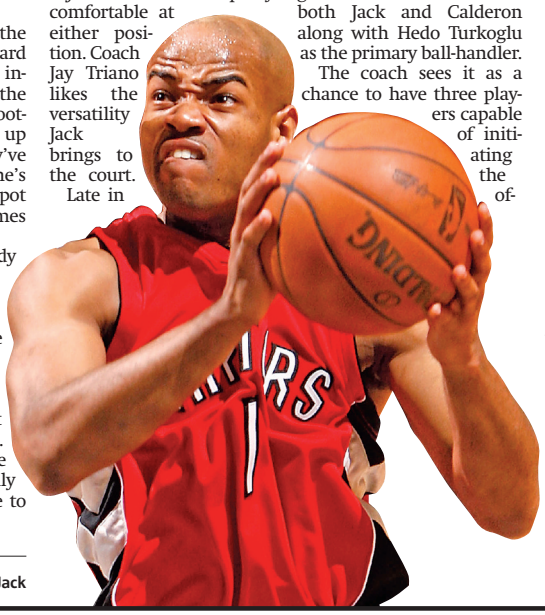
"Sometimes your role is going to change daily and you have to be able to adapt."

Jarrett Jack

Bosh, Bargnani each third in all-star voting

- Toronto Raptors Chris Bosh and Andrea Bargnani are both third in voting for the NBA's Eastern Conference all-star team. Bosh (303,550 votes) trails Cleveland's LeBron James (649,327) and Boston's Kevin Garnett (533,187) in voting for Eastern forwards. Bargnani ranks third among Eastern centres with 67,310 votes, well back of Orlando's Dwight Howard (625,279) and Cleveland's Shaquille O'Neal (206,657).

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jack said he feels equally comfortable at either position. Coach Jay Triano likes the versatility Jack brings to the court.

Late in games, Triano has used both Jack and Calderon along with Hedo Turkoglu as the primary ball-handler.

The coach sees it as a chance to have three players capable of initiating the offence on the court at the same time, and it also gives them three good free-throw shooters in tight situations.

"That's the position I'm in," said Jack. "That's why they brought me here, for reasons like this, if Jose needs a little relief. I'm just trying to come in and do the best job I can."

Whether Jack remains as the starting point guard Friday against Atlanta is unknown. Calderon, who missed two games with a sore left hip, didn't travel with the Raptors to Milwaukee Wednesday, remaining in Toronto to get treatment.

Calderon was back with the medical staff for a session Thursday and is likely to take part in the team's shootaround Friday morning. If he comes through that session all right, he's likely to be a game-time decision.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Another rough ride in Boston for Kessel as Bruins best Leafs

Before the game, when informed that Maple Leafs' winger Phil Kessel had assessed his last visit here as his worst performance of the season, Bruins' defenceman Derek Morris joked about what he'd like to see in the rematch.

"Hopefully," he said. "His second worst game of the year."

Kessel delivered. He might have even undercut his Saturday showing here when the Bruins crushed the Leafs 7-2.

On Thursday, the score was close enough — the Bruins won 5-2 — that Kessel would have made a big difference if he'd been able to contribute offensively.

But he was unable to do much at a very hostile TD Garden. As the fans booed and chanted obscenities every time he touched the puck the winger was rendered mostly ineffective.

Boston's Mark Recchi scored twice in the final three minutes, and former Leaf Tuukka Rask stopped 32 shots for the Bruins. Leafs Mikhail Grabovski and Nikolai Kulemin had goals in the third period.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

BASEBALL The Toronto Blue Jays selected right-handed pitcher Zech Zinicola from the Washington Nationals with the 10th selection in Thursday's Rule 5 draft. The 24-year-old split last season between double-A Harrisburg and triple-A Syracuse in the Nationals system.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL A person familiar with the negotiations says Brian Kelly will be Notre Dame's next football coach. The person confirmed to The Associated Press that a deal has been reached with the Cincinnati coach. The person requested anonymity because an official announcement had not been made.

BASEBALL Canadian Rich Harden and the Texas Rangers completed a one-year contract yesterday that guarantees the right-hander $7.5 million US. The deal calls for a $6.5-million salary next year and includes an $11.5-million mutual option for 2011 with a $1-million buyout.

BROADCASTING Buck Martinez is returning to the Toronto Blue Jays' broadcast booth — this time as play-by-play announcer. The former catcher and longtime TV analyst is replacing Jamie Campbell as the team's new voice on Rogers Sportsnet, the sports network announced Thursday.

SOCCER Lionel Messi will miss Barcelona's Spanish league match against Espanyol Saturday after he sustained an ankle injury that could jeopardize his playing at the upcoming Club World Cup.

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Gallery out for season
Oakland Raiders left guard Robert Gallery will miss the rest of the season with a lower back injury. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Skip Stefanie Lawton celebrates her win over Cheryl Bernard Thursday during the 2009 Canadian Olympic curling trials in Edmonton. Lawton won 6-5 to tie for third place in the standings.

Three curling teams, one spot in playoffs

Holland, Lawton, McCarville to face off

Three teams have tied for third place heading into the playoffs at the Canadian Olympic curling trials.

Amber Holland, Stefanie Lawton and Krista McCarville will take to the ice Friday to determine who gets the final playoff spot after finishing the round robin with identical 4-3 records.

Winnipeg's Jennifer Jones, considered the favourite coming into the tournament, was officially eliminated from contention Thursday. She lost 10-9 to Shannon Kleibrink in the afternoon draw.

Cheryl Bernard, who lost to Lawton 6-5, and Kleibrink have already clinched the first and second spots at the qualifying event, with the overall tournament winner to represent Canada at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver.

Holland easily defeated Kelly Scott 10-4 and McCarville was a 6-4 winner over Crystal Webster.

Lawton and McCarville will square off Friday morning, with the winner to play Holland in the afternoon.

The winner of that second tiebreaker will then square off against Kleibrink for the right to play Bernard in the final.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Winter meetings conclude with few fireworks

As general managers headed out the hotel doors and into the bone-chilling air, most had much work to do. Only the New York Yankees, Houston, Texas and Milwaukee accomplished a lot this week during the winter meetings.

The top three free agents — John Lackey, Matt Holliday and Trail, B.C., native Jason Bay — remained unsigned. Toronto ace Roy Halladay was still being shopped.

With two weeks left until the holiday break, agents and teams figure to try to wear each other down. Some premier players may not know their spring training destination until January.

Mets make offers

- On the last day of the meetings, the New York Mets made offers to Canadian slugger Jason Bay and free-agent catcher Bengie Molina. Bay's four-year offer was reportedly worth $60 million to $65 million US.

Essentially, teams are acting as if they were shoppers waiting for price drops. Why pay full price when markdowns might be coming soon, especially for position players?

"You can turn left, you can turn right, you can look up and down and you've got a DH sitting right there begging for a job," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

Some players seem to be waiting to find out where the Yankees will bid for them. The big-market teams are holding back, and the small-market clubs are hunting for bargains.

"I've kind of been programmed since Day 1 here not to use those words: 'Small market.' But the facts of it are that's what we are," Kansas City manager Trey Hillman said. "We have to get a surplus developed within our own system to be able to fund it ourselves."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Ottawa at Philadelphia
TORONTO at Boston
Pittsburgh at Montreal
Columbus at Nashville
Atlanta at Vancouver
Phoenix at Los Angeles

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Florida at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Washington, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Denver at Detroit
Boston at Washington
Orlando at Utah

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at TORONTO, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Houston at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Dallas at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
New York at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Golden State at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Portland at Cleveland, 8 p.m.
Charlotte at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Orlando at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

For games results, visit metronews.ca/sports

Pirates sign Crosby
Former AL Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby and the Pittsburgh Pirates agreed Thursday to a $1-million US, one-year contract. The 29-year-old infielder had spent his previous seven seasons with Oakland and won the rookie honour in 2004, when he batted .239 with 22 homers and 64 RBIs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in a Canadian flag-bearer?

And so the speculation begins. Who will carry the Maple Leaf into the stadium when the Olympics open in Vancouver? This question preoccupies the musings of many Canadians every time the Games roll around because the subject of who will carry our flag prompts vastly different responses, all of which are laced with tremendous passion. The stakes are even higher because these are our home Olympics.

Some feel that the right and privilege of carrying the flag is an opportunity not to be denied — not even if the task interferes with preparation for imminent competition. Stellar athletes who declined for such reasons in 2006 at Torino were, at times, publicly ridiculed and found themselves in the unfamiliar and perhaps unfair position of having to defend their choices.

Carrying the flag is a big responsibility. We Canadians hold it very close to the heart.

There are many characteristics necessary in a flag-bearer. Not only does the athlete have to be of substance on the field of play, he or she has to represent the goodness of Canada. In addition, this country aims to reflect its diversity in the person who bears the standard. Therefore, linguistic, racial and gender equality issues are considered.

> **"This country aims to reflect its diversity in the person who bears the standard. Therefore, linguistic, racial and gender equality issues are considered."**

Strangely, in a country in love with hockey, our greatest male players who will garner much of the nation's attention are deemed by many to be ineligible because they are professionals — sort of like invited guests at the Games.

It's too bad because the charitable Jarome Iginla, a veteran of three Olympics who scored twice in the gold-medal game in Salt Lake City, might be a great choice. So would Martin Brodeur, the most prolific goalie of all time who will take part in his fourth Olympics and whose father Denis won bronze at the 1956 Games in Cortina.

No, it seems Canada's flag-bearer must be an Olympian first and foremost. The job has to go to someone who has lived the Olympic life and pursued what can be an elusive and intangible dream.

Without naming names, there are so many fine Canadians to assume this position.

By now we should all know who they are because when the time comes they will be wearing our colours and representing all of us.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Tennis mixed doubles in, cycling pursuit events out for 2012 Games

IOC Olympic leaders made two roster changes Thursday for the 2012 London Games: Track cycling's signature endurance race is out and tennis mixed doubles is in.

The International Olympic Committee executive board agreed to a program of five men's and five women's track cycling events as part of a plan proposed by cycling's governing body.

As a result, the Olympics will lose track cycling's 4,000-metre individual pursuit for men and 3,000-metre pursuit for women.

Cycling had seven track events for men and three for women at the 2008 Beijing Games.

Thursday's changes were designed to make sure male and females compete in an equal number of events in London.

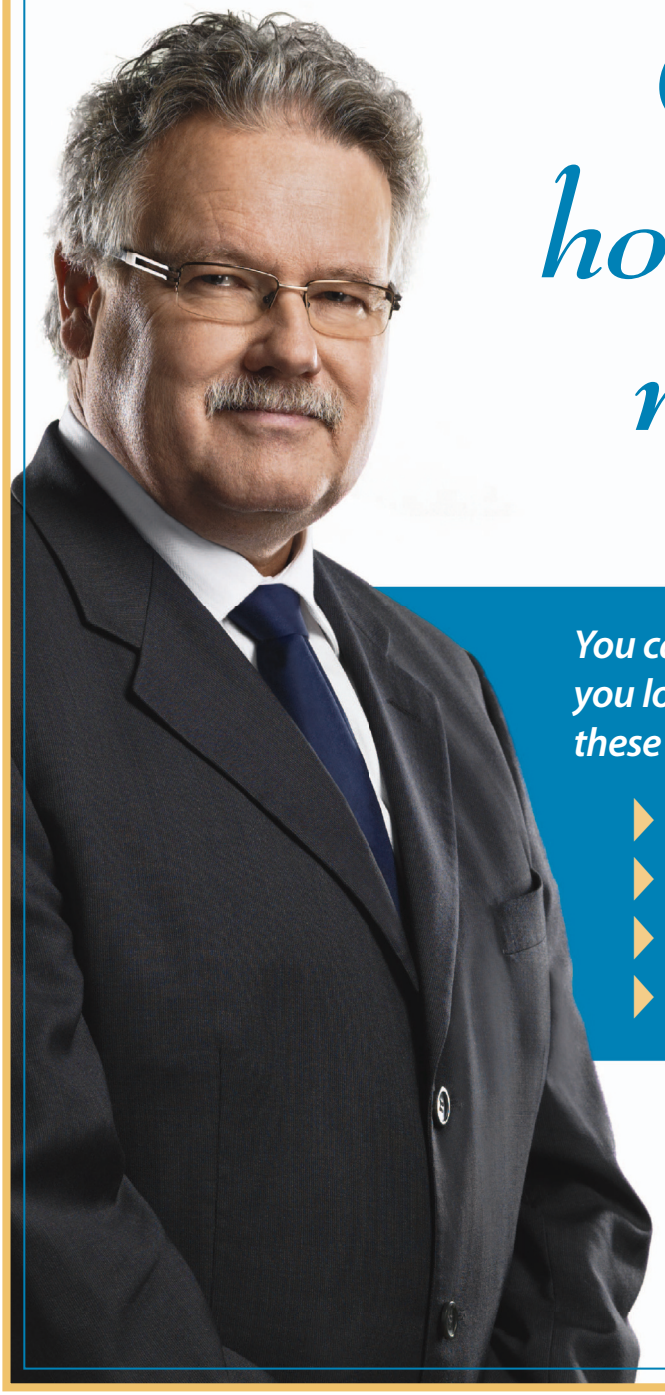
The number of women track cyclists in London will rise to 84, up from 35 in Beijing in 2008.

Mixed doubles was played at several Olympics from 1900 to 1924.

The last gold medallists were Americans Richard Williams and Hazel Wightman in Paris in 1924.

Tennis was dropped from the Olympics after 1924, but returned as a medal event in 1988 without mixed doubles.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Titanic hopes

Pg 46

It's been a long time, but James Cameron — of Aliens, Terminator and Titanic fame — is back with his latest movie, Avatar.

Movies

Pg 47

Freeman and Damon shine in Eastwood's Invictus.

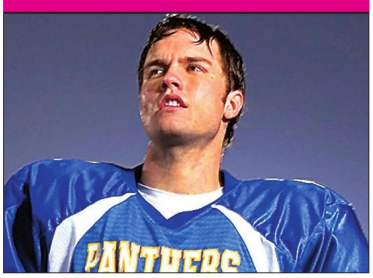
Music

Pg 56

Samson sounding off solo for The Constantines.

Television

Pg 55



Friday Night Lights among the top shows of the decade.

At a glance
Invictus ⊕⊕⊕⊕, The Princess and The Frog ⊕⊕⊕⊕½, Me and Orson Welles ⊕⊕⊕, A Single Man ⊕⊕, Collapse ⊕⊕⊕

Movies

MOVIES EDITOR: KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Cameron crunch time

Will Avatar's huge budget and hype sink it?

Movie **feature**

A colossal budget, visionary technology and a down-to-the-wire workload on a film whose fortunes are a real question mark.

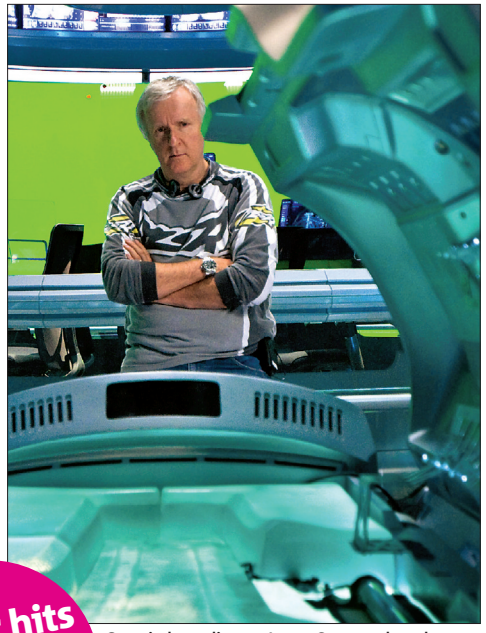
James Cameron has been here before on little ditties called Terminator 2: Judgment Day and Titanic. In case anyone's forgotten how that worked out for him, Titanic stacked up 11 Academy Awards, best picture and director among them, and a record $1.8 billion worldwide at the box office.

This time, the Ontario-born filmmaker's vision is riding on Avatar, a science-fiction epic aiming to push the bounds of digital filmmaking and 3-D presentation into the heavens, with a reported price tag well in excess of the $200 million spent to make Titanic.

Will audiences come along? Cameron thinks so.

"It's hard for me to imagine that short of some massive marketing debacle, that it's not going to work for people. I mean, we may not have a kind of slam-dunk opening weekend that settles the whole case. I don't think the case is going to be settled until week two or maybe week three," Cameron said only days after completing Avatar, just in time for its worldwide blowout next week.

Avatar hits theatres next week



Ontario-born director James Cameron has plenty riding on his new sci-fi epic Avatar.

"Let's face it. It wasn't settled on Titanic till week 10. Titanic was the No. 1 picture for 16 weeks. I don't expect that kind of performance out of Avatar."

Cameron will not divulge what he does expect out of Avatar, wisecracking that if we announce the sequel, then we hit the number.

The director, who had a $200 million smash on Terminator 2 and hits on Aliens and True Lies, has kept fans waiting a long time. Though he's been busy producing, making the underwater 3-D documentaries Ghosts of the Abyss and Aliens of the Deep and developing the technology for Avatar, this marks his first narrative film since Titanic 12 years ago.

Cameron's reputation and a mammoth marketing push by distributor 20th Century Fox virtually guarantee hit status for Avatar. Still, in this blockbuster age, there are hits and there are HITS. The question is whether Avatar can climb to the $300 million or $400 million level of such franchises as Star Wars, The Lord of the Rings and Spider-Man.

Some factors in its favour:

- Science-fiction and fantasy have gone mainstream in a huge way since Cameron's last foray in the field.
- Now that cartoon hits have built fan appetite for digital 3-D films, Avatar is Hollywood's big test for the future of live-action movies in three dimensions. Avatar in 3-D will bring in about $4 to $5 a ticket more than the 2-D version.
- Cameron's a franchise unto himself even when he doesn't score a runaway hit (The Abyss).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies.

Disney returns to its roots with The Princess and The Frog.

Frog timeless tale

The Princess and **The Frog**

Director: John Lasseter
Stars: Anika Noni Rose
Classification: G
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

It took nearly 15 years and several misfires for Disney to realize what made their animated movie musicals special, but luckily they did, as The Princess and The Frog proves. The ironic part was that it took CGI king John Lasseter to champion a return to the animation studio's roots.

In The Princess and the Frog, there's no winking irony, no out-of-place pop culture references and no rapping grannies.

What's there instead is a beautifully inventive take on a classic fairy tale full of music that pays homage to the film's New Orleans setting while still fitting in the classic Disney vein. The fact that Randy Newman wrote the songs but opted not to sing them himself probably helps a great deal.

The animation featured is a return to form for Disney, making the film feel timeless right out of the gate. The elephant in the room — that the film feature's Disney's first African-American princess — becomes a non-issue so quickly it's ridiculous.

A lot of that probably has to do with the fact that our heroine, Tiana, spends much of the movie as a frog herself, but every aspect of the story is handled so artfully that anyone attempting to ascribe political meaning to anything in it would only make themselves seem foolish.

- For a trailer of The Princess and The Frog, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca

Spielberg up for sound award
Steven Spielberg has landed the Motion Picture Sound Editors' (MPSE) 2010 Filmmaker Award. The E.T. director will be honoured at next year's MPSE's Golden Reel awards ceremony held on Feb. 20. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Stars on top of game

Invictus

Director: Clint Eastwood
Stars: Matt Damon, Morgan Freeman
Classification: PG
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕⊕

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

The main joy of Invictus is watching Morgan Freeman finally, at long last, play Nelson Mandela, a role it was assumed would eventually end up on his resume.

But instead of a long-planned adaptation of Mandela's autobiography, director Clint Eastwood has brought to the screen the story of 1995 Rugby World Cup, held in South Africa, and Mandela's effort to use the event to unite an apartheid-scarred nation.

That Freeman excels as Mandela is really no surprise, but it is fun to watch. The real surprise here is Matt Damon, as rugby captain Francois Pienaar, who turns in a startlingly effecting performance.

Morgan Freeman and Matt Damon star in Clint Eastwood's Invictus.

Good as the leads are, the rugby itself unfortunately gets in the way. As the sport is more than likely a big unfamiliar to North American audiences, much effort is made to explain the basics of the game.

Some of these are seamless within the story, such as actual coaching sessions the team held in the townships as an outreach effort. Others, such as one security guard asking another straight-forward questions about scoring and gameplay, feel far too clumsy — especially in a film that handles so many other complex story aspects so artfully.

The big final match against New Zealand, the film's climax, is played out almost in real time, point by point, leaving Mandela a spectator in his own story as Pienaar's men take the field and wordlessly fight for their nation's honour.

Aside from taking up way too much of the film's time, the game also suffers from too much slow motion, which is what ultimately keeps the film from being a true success. Whether the audience knows the outcome of the famous game or not, the filmmakers take so long getting to the final whistle that it's hard to care when they do.

• For a trailer of Invictus, photos, screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

Urgency in conspiracies

Collapse

Director: Chris Smith
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Although it would seem to fit snugly within the recent cycle of sky-is-falling documentaries (An Inconvenient Truth, The End of the Line) and features (The Road), Chris Smith's Collapse distinguishes itself by focusing more intently on Chicken Little.

Its subject, Michael C. Ruppert, is a former LAPD officer turned whistle-blower-cum-conspiracy-theorist peddling an apocalypse-soon spiel to all corners of the blogosphere.

To summarize his position, everything that's happened in the United States in the past 30 years or so can be viewed as a harbinger of total, unified doom, and to be sure, much of Collapse's fascination derives from the urgency and terse eloquence of Ruppert's contemporary Nostradamus act.

Dolan's debut makes Globe cut

CONTENDER A breakout film by rising Quebec director Xavier Dolan is among the international contenders seeking a Golden Globe nomination for best foreign language film.

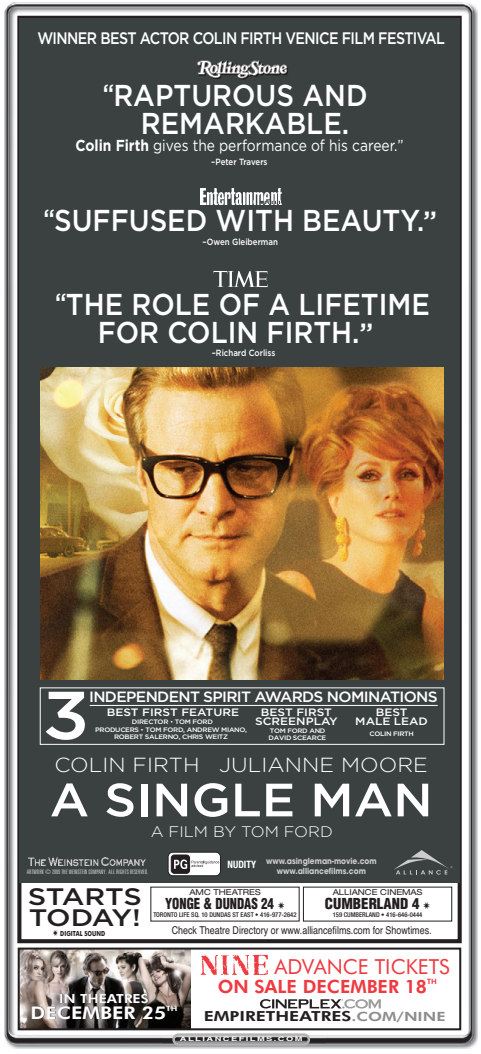
The Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which runs the awards bash, says I Killed My Mother is one of a record 69 foreign language films that have qualified for consideration.

Dolan's searing portrayal of a constantly bickering single mother and teenage son, known as J'ai tue ma mere in Quebec, was a smash on the festival circuit, winning raves at Cannes earlier this year.

It's Canada's official entry for consideration for the best foreign film Oscar.

The Golden Globe contenders will be whittled down to five nominees to be announced Dec. 15.

Other acclaimed foreign-language films vying for a nomination include Spanish director Pedro Almodovar's Broken Embraces, French director Jean-Pierre Jeunet's visual feast Micmacs, and German director Michael Haneke's celebrated film, The White Ribbon. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Wife meets ninja

It's not the most obvious of face-offs but Wife Vs. Ninja is set for the screen with DreamWorks. This is the story of a Long Island housewife whose scientist husband leaves her for a young intern, who is in fact a ninja assassin. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Cruz still muse

Actress back with Almodovar in Broken Embraces

CHRIS ALEXANDER
for Metro Canada

Wildly irreverent Spanish filmmaker Pedro Almodovar has forged his legacy and found his following by continuously mining Hollywood clichés and reinterpreting them as high art.

His emotional, sexual and passionate movies have defined Mediterranean cinema for over 30 years, exploring sex, lust and melodrama with wit, style and genuine enthusiasm for the medium.

And though his works have often introduced many internationally acclaimed Spanish actors to North American audiences (he put Antonio Banderas on the map in his wacky 1982 comedy Labyrinth of Passion) there is no disputing the fact that the gorgeous Penelope Cruz is his on-screen muse, his female counterpart.

"I have known Pedro since I was a little girl, I ... would do anything for him. There is no one else like him and I don't think there ever will be." Penelope Cruz

Almodovar has featured Cruz as his heroine more than any other actress, starting with 1997's Live Flesh and continuing with such sensual, visionary fare like 1999's bizarre and beautiful All About My Mother and 2006's equally impassioned Volver.

Broken Embraces opens next Friday

Their latest collaboration is the layered, tragicomic romantic thriller Broken Embraces in which Cruz stars as Lena, a struggling actress trapped in a loveless marriage. When her wealthy, older husband arranges for her to be cast in a new film by a celebrated director (Luis Homar), a lethal love triangle evolves.

"Lena is a very complex character," says Cruz of her troubled alter ego. "In many ways she is a femme fatale in the classic sense, but she's so much more than that. I think of her as three women in one."

With Broken Embraces, Almodovar employs a flashback framework and uses the gimmick of having a film within a film, a device that allows Cruz to assume the visages of various classic Hollywood ingénues including Audrey Hepburn and Marilyn Monroe.

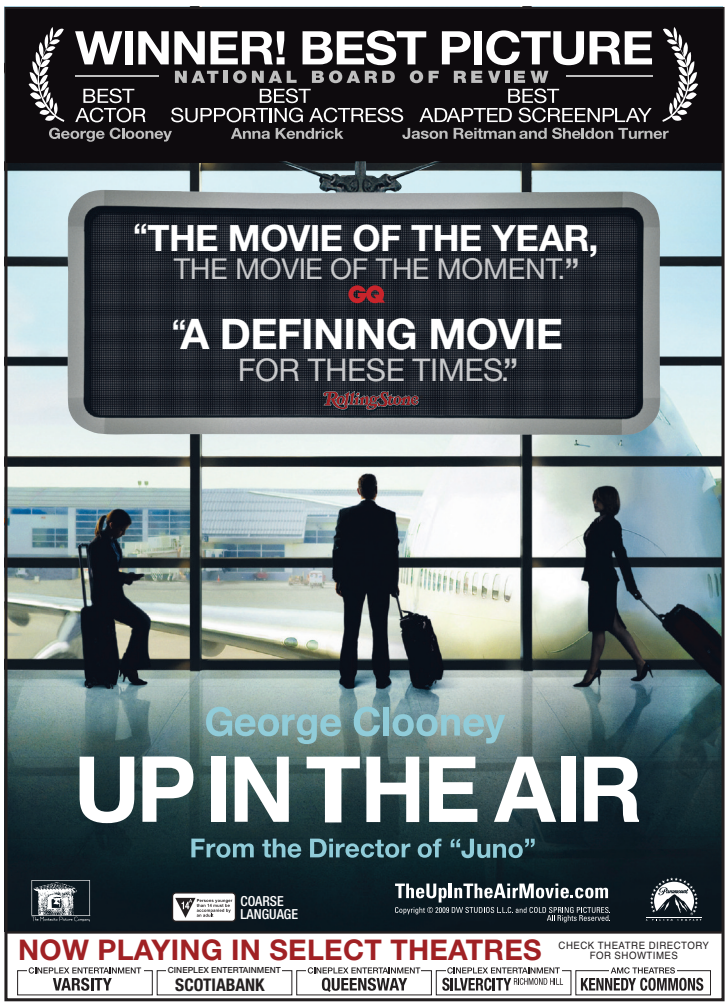
The results are another of the auteur's signature classics, a twisty turny film noir in which Cruz gives her best performance since, well, Volver.

But just because their relationship is strong and enduring, doesn't mean that there isn't any on-set friction between mentor and muse.

"Sometimes there are times when he's not good to be around," the actress admits with a smile.

"He's very open about exactly what he wants and sometimes it can get tense. But I have known Pedro since I was a little girl, I have grown up with him and would do anything for him. There is no one else like him and I don't think there ever will be."

Director Pedro Almodovar and Penelope Cruz share a moment on the set of Broken Embraces.



MacKay towers as Welles

Me and **Orson Welles**

Director: Richard Linklater
Stars: Zac Efron, Christian MacKay, Claire Danes
Classification: STC
Rating: ●●●

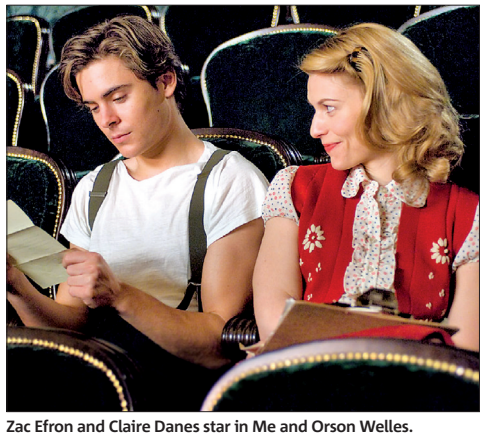
PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW Sometimes one performance can save an entire film. Take Me And Orson Welles, a fairly bland coming age story set against the backdrop of Orson Welles' infamous 1937 production of Julius Caesar.

The movie is featherweight and predictable, but bursts to life every time Christian McKay appears on screen as Orson Welles.

McKay's performance transcends impersonation to completely capture the complex personality of a young Welles at the peak of his powers and director Richard Linklater (Waking Life) is clever enough to shade in all of Welles' flaws just as carefully as his prestigious talents. It's easily the best representation of Welles ever captured on screen, but unfortunately the film that surrounds the towering performance doesn't quite compare.

The main problem with the movie is that it centres on Teen Beat coverboy Zac Efron rather than Welles.



Zac Efron and Claire Danes star in Me and Orson Welles.

The High School: The Musical star plays an ambitious teen who stumbles into a small role in Caesar. Much of the film is about Efron learning hard life lessons from Welles, the cast, and a promiscuous production assistant played by Claire Danes.

Efron's limited range as an actor is stretched to the breaking point in a pretty undemanding role. The script does capture the youthful joy of being involved with the arts reasonably well, but without Orson Welles this would have been a made-for-TV movie at best.

Fortunately Richard Linklater rushes through the plot to spend as much time as possible with McKay's Welles, vividly recreating his expressionistic take on Julius Caesar and filling every scene with subtle details about Welles' early life (such as his use of off-duty ambulances to race around New York).

It's unfortunate that the director didn't just make a film about this era of Welles' life with Christian McKay as the star, because it could have been an interesting bio-pic. As it stands, Me And Orson Welles is merely a pleasant movie featuring one astounding performance destined for awards recognition.

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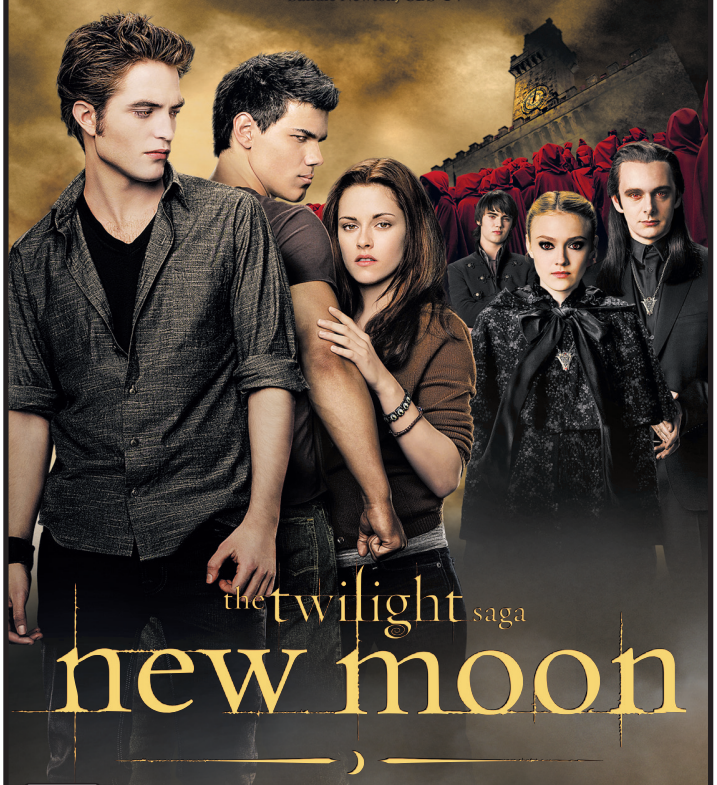
– Sandie Newton, CBS-TV



the twilight saga
new moon

PG Parental guidance advised FRIGHTENING SCENES

www.newmoonthemovie.com

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Enter the ULTIMATE FAN CONTEST at twilightthemovie.ca Contest ends Jan 08/10. No purchase necessary.

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"THOROUGHLY ENTERTAINING."
TIME OUT CHICAGO

"WINNING PERFORMANCES."
LOS ANGELES TIMES

"IRRESISTIBLE."
ROLLING STONE

All's Fair in Love and Theater.

Claire Danes Zac Efron Christian McKay

BROADCAST FILM CRITICS ASSOCIATION CRITICS' CHOICE

Me and Orson Welles

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'SCHOOL OF ROCK' AND 'BEFORE SUNSET'.

PG Parental guidance advised MATURE THEME. LANGUAGE MAY OFFEND

Book Available from Penguin Books

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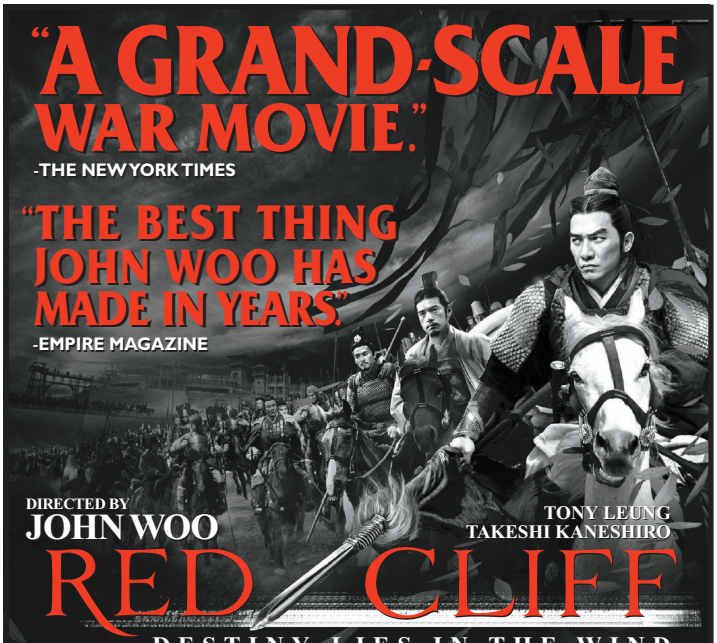
"A GRAND-SCALE WAR MOVIE."
-THE NEW YORK TIMES

"THE BEST THING JOHN WOO HAS MADE IN YEARS."
-EMPIRE MAGAZINE



DIRECTED BY JOHN WOO

TONY LEUNG
TAKESHI KANESHIRO

RED CLIFF

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14A Persons younger than 14 must be accompanied by an adult VIOLENCE, SUBTITLED

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CINEPLEX ENTERTAINMENT SCOTIABANK Daily 12:25, 3:40, 7:00, 10:25
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AMC THEATRES KENNEDY COMMONS Daily 3:20 6:30 9:40 Sat/Sun mats 12:10

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RACHEL BILSON

CLORIS LEACHMAN
ELI WALLACH
ROBIN WRIGHT PENN
CHRIS COOPER
SHU QI
CARLOS ACOSTA
TAYLOR GEARE
UGUR YUCEL
SHIA LABEOUF

NATALIE PORTMAN
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STARTS TODAY For Theatres and Showtimes: Check Local Listings

Victoria by Vallee

C.R.A.Z.Y. director tackles Brit royalty

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

When he was attending this year's Toronto International Film Festival with his film, The Young Victoria — an intimate account of the iconic British monarch's early years on the throne — Jean Marc Vallee's hair was considerably shorter than it was when he was in Toronto for his Genie-winning C.R.A.Z.Y.

This tonsorial disparity speaks to the differences between the two films: Where C.R.A.Z.Y.'s amped-up autobiographical narrative gave the Montreal-based filmmaker licence to let it all hang out, The Young Victoria's subject matter called for a more pared-down approach.

"Normally, period pieces are not my cup of tea," explains Vallee, who took several years to decide how to follow up the critical and commercial success of C.R.A.Z.Y.

The Young Victoria hits theatres next week

"But Julian Fellowes' script was beautiful: He has such a rare way of writing about this world. I felt like I could spend the next two years of my life trying to get it on-screen."

Vallee admits that The Young Victoria, which hits theatres next week, is a less personal project than C.R.A.Z.Y., and that he struggled for a while with striking a balance between individual vision and the demands of the costume-drama genre.

"On the credits, it doesn't say (that this is) 'a film by (Jean-Marc Vallee) … it says 'directed by.' What I mean is that I'm not the only one making creative decisions. I had to learn how to work in that sort of new environment. I wanted my voice to be in there, but it wasn't the only one."

A scene for The Young Victoria, directed by Jean Marc Vallee.

Firth brings dignity to Single Man

A Single Man
Director: Tom Ford
Stars: Colin Firth, Julianne Moore
Classification: STC
Rating:

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW As its double-entendre title suggests, Tom Ford's debut feature A Single Man focuses on an isolated figure: George Falconer, a semi-closeted university professor plying his trade in pre-Stonewall California.

Colin Firth's performance in the role has a credible dignity: we see that George is a man whose gift for sublimating his true feelings — namely, his crippling grief over the death of his younger lover (Matthew Goode) in an automobile accident — has made him a stranger in his own skin.

It's a compellingly understated performance in a film unfortunately more inclined towards grand gestures.

Fashion designer-turned-director Ford favors fussy framings and glossy cinematography, and while he hits upon a few striking ideas — i.e. deploying oversaturated colours to suggest intense physical sensations — the showy technique doesn't serve the material.

The film unfolds rather schematically as a series of encounters between George and characters who prod his suicidal gloom, with the most screen time going to Julianne Moore as a faded tart nurturing an unrequited crush on her old friend.

She's borderline embarrassing, but Nicholas Houpt does better as a student wise to his teacher's condition — obviously, his experience on About a Boy gave him a knack for acting opposite brittle Brits.

Cineplex | Empire | AMC | Alliance Atlantis | Rainbow Cinemas | Independent

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 11 TO THURS., DEC. 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

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New York, I Love You is currently playing in theatres.

DOWNTOWN

BLOOR THEATRE
506 Bloor St., 416-516-2330

Amélie (14A) Mon 9
Bright Star (PG) Thu 4:15
Capitalism: A Love Story (PG) Fri 4:15 Sat 9:30 Sun 1:45
Dog in a Sidecar (STC) Sun 4:30
Good Hair (PG) Sun 8:45
The Man With the Golden Arm (STC) Thu 9:15
Mary and Max (PG) Sun 6:45 Mon 4:30 Tue 9:15
The Milkwoman (STC) Sat 7
The Princess Bride (STC) Sat 4:30 Mon 7
Private Screening (STC) Fri 9:30
Repo! The Genetic Opera (18A) Fri 7
Tibet in Song (STC) Wed 6:30-9:15
When We Were Boys (STC) Tue 7
White Christmas (PG) Tue 4:30 Thu 6:45

CUMBERLAND CINEMAS
159 Cumberland Ave., 416-646-0444

New York, I Love You (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:45-7:30-10:10
The Road (14A) Fri-Tue 1:15-4-7:10 Wed 1:15-4:10 Thu 1:15-4-7:10
A Single Man (PG) Fri-Thu 1-1:45-3:30-4:30-6:45-7:15-9:15-9:45

SCOTIABANK THEATRE
259 Richmond St., 416-368-5600

Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:10
Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri 1:20-4:20-7:05-10 Sat 4:20-7:05-10 Sun 1:20-4:20-7:05-10 Mon 1:20-4:20-10 Tue-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:05-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50
Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:40-10:15
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:40 No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4-7:10-10:20
The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-5-8:10:25
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:45-9:35
Red Cliff (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:40-7-10:25
The Road (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:50-7:50-10:30 Mon 1:40-4:15-7:30-10:30 Tue-Thu 1:40-4:50-7:50-10:30
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Wed 3-6:20-9:30 Thu 3 Fri-Wed 12:50-4:10-7:20-10:30 Thu 12:50-4:10-7:20
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:30-10:10 No Passes Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:20
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:10-6:10-9 Sun 12:40-3:10 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:10-6:10-9
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

MARKET SQUARE
80 Front St., 416-494-9371

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-6:50-9:30
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-3:50-7-9:25-11:40 Sun-Wed 1:10-3:50-7-9:25 Thu 3:50-7-9:25 Thu 1
Invictus (PG) Fri-Sat 1-4-6:40-9:20-11:50 Sun-Thu 1-4-6:40-9:20
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:20-6:45-9-11:15 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:20-6:45-9
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:15-5:15-7:15-9:10
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:15-11:45 Sun-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:30-9:15

REVUE CINEMA
400 Roncesvalles Ave., 416-531-9959

Astro Boy (PG) Sat-Sun 2
Coco avant Chanel (PG) Fri-Sun 7 Mon-Wed 6:45
In the Loop (14A) Fri 9:20 Sat 4
Miracle on 34th Street (STC) Thu 7
Paranormal Activity (14A) Sat-Sun 9:20 Tue-Wed 9
Private Screening (STC) Mon 9

THE ROYAL
608 College St., 416-466-4400

Collapse (STC) Fri-Wed 7-9
Humber College Screenings (STC) Thu 7

VARSITY
55 Bloor St. W., 416-961-6304

Brothers (14A) Fri 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15 Sat 1:30-4:10-7:30-10:15 Sun-Tue 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15 Wed 1:30-7:30-10:15 Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15 Fri 1:05-3:25-6:15-9:05 Sat 6:35-9:05 Sun-Tue 1:05-3:25-6:15-9:05 Wed 1:05-3:25 Thu 1:05-3:25-6:15-9:05
An Education (PG) Fri-Wed 1:20-3:50-6:30-9 Thu 1:20-3:50
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Wed 12:20-2:40-5-7:20-9:30 Thu 12:20-7:20-9:30
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:10-3:40-6:50-10:05 No Passes Fri 12:55-3:55-9:55 No Passes Sat-Thu 12:55-3:55-6:55-9:55
Me and Orson Welles (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-9:50
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:30-6:10-9:10 Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-7:15-9:45
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1:3:20-4-6:20-7-9:20-10 No Passes Fri-Tue 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:15 No Passes Wed 3:45-6:45-9:15 No Passes Thu 3:45-9:15

CANADA SQUARE
2200 Yonge St., 416-646-0444

Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) Fri 4:15-6:45-9 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:15-6:45-9 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:45-9
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:10 Sat-Sun 2:05-4:20-6:50-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20-9:50
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 4:30-6:55-9:05 Sat-Sun 2-4:30-6:55-9:05 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:55-9:05
The Private Lives of Pippa Lee (14A) Fri 4:40-7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:40-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:40-7-9:30
Prom Night in Mississippi (STC) Fri 4-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:35-4-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 4-7:15-9:40
The Road (14A) Fri 4:55-7:30-10 Sat-Sun 2:20-4:55-7:30-10 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:30-10

MT. PLEASANT THEATRE
675 Mt.Pleasant Rd., 416-489-8484

Coco avant Chanel (PG) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 4:30 Tue-Wed 7
A Serious Man (14A) Fri 9:20 Sat 9:25 Sun 7 Thu 7

REGENT THEATRE
551 Mt.Pleasant Rd., 416-480-9884

Amreeka (14A) Fri-Sat 7 Sun 4:30 Tue-Thu 7
Departures (14A) Fri-Sat 9 Sun 7

YONGE-EGLINTON CENTRE
2300 Yonge St., 416-544-1236

2012 (14A) Fri 12-3:20-7-10:30 Sat 12:15-3:20-7-10:30 Sun 12-3:20-7-10:30 Mon-Wed 2-6:30-9:50 Thu 2-9:50
Armored (14A) Fri 5:20-7:45-10:30 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:5:20-7:45-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:10-9:20
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 12:40-3:40-7-10
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:05-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:20-6:20-9:10
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:20 No Passes Mon-Wed 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:45 No Passes Thu 6:40 No Passes Thu 12:30-3:30-9:45
Old Dogs (G) Fri 12:50-3:10-6:45-9:20 Sat 4:20-6:45-9:20 Sun 12:50-3:10-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 1-4-6:45-9
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-2:30-5-7:30-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:20-9:40
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:50-10

YONGE & DUNDAS 24
10 Dundas St East, 416-977-2642

2012 (14A) Fri 1:30-2:15-3:30-4:45-5:45-7-8:15-9:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 10:45-11:45-1:30-2:15-3:30-4:45-5:45-7-8:15-9:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-2:15-3:30-4:45-5:45-7-8:15-9:15-10:15
Armored (14A) Special Engagement Fri 2-2:50-3:40-4:20-5:10-6-7-7:40-8:30-9:30-10:10-10:45 Special Engagement Sat 11:40-12:20-2-2:50-4:20-5:10-6-7-7:40-8:30-9:30-10:10-10:45 Special Engagement Sun 10:40-11:40-12:20-1:10-2-2:50-3:40-4:20-5:10-6-7-7:40-8:30-9:30-10:10-10:45 Mon-Wed 2-2:50-3:40-4:20-5:10-6-7-7:40-8:30-9:30-10:10-10:45 Thu 2-2:30-3:40-4:20-6-7-8:30-9:30-10:45
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 2:10-7:35 Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Fri 2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:30-1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:15-6:45-9:15
Everybody's Fine (PG) Special Engagement Fri 1:35-3:35-4:35-6:30-7:30-9-10 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:10-12:35-1:35-3:35-4:35-6:30-7:30-9-10 Mon-Thu 1:35-3:35-4:35-6:30-7:30-9-10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 1:15-2:25-3:25-4:40-5:40-7:25-8:25-9:45-10:45 Sat-Sun 10:55-12:15-1:15-2:25-3:25-4:40-5:40-7:25-8:25-9:45-10:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-2:25-3:25-4:40-5:40-7:25-8:25-9:45-10:45
Larger Than Life in 3D: Dave Matthews Band (STC) Special Engagement Fri 2:45-5:7:10-9:20-11:15 Special Engagement Sat 12:30-2:45-5:7:10-9:20-11:15 Special Engagement Sun 12:30-2:45-5:7:10-9:20 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:45-5:7:10-9:20
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri 4:55-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:05-4:55-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:55-10:10
Love Happens (PG) Tue-Wed 1:05-4:05
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 2:20-3:20-4:50-5:50-7:20-8:20-9:50-10:50 Sat-Sun 11:45-12:45-2:20-3:20-4:50-5:50-7:20-8:20-9:50-10:50 Mon-Thu 2:20-3:20-4:50-5:50-7:20-8:20-9:50-10:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri 2:30-5:7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:25-2:30-5:7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:7:10-9:25
Paa (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:05-10:10 Mon 1:15-4:05-7:05-10:10 Tue-Wed 7:05-10:10 Thu 1:15-4:05-7:05-10:10
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 1:35-4:05-6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 11:20-1:35-4:05-6:40-9:10 Mon 1:35-4:05-6:40-9:10 Tue-Wed 1:35 Thu 1:35-4:05-6:40
The Princess and the Frog (G) Special Engagement Fri 1:30-2:15-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:15-8-9:15-9:45-10:30 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 10:40-11:40-12:30-1:30-2:15-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:15-8-9:15-9:45-10:30 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 1:30-2:15-2:45-4-4:45-5:30-6:45-7:15-8-9:15-9:45-10:30
A Serious Man (14A) Fri 2:10-5:05-7:30-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:10-5:05-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:10-5:05-7:30-10:05
A Single Man (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2-4:30-7:20-9:55 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:20-2-4:30-7:20-9:55 Special Engagement Mon-Wed 2-4:30-7:20-9:55 Special Engagement Thu 2-4:45-7:20-9:55

WEST END

ALBION CINEMAS
1530 Albion Rd., 416-742-3456

De Dana Dan (PG) Fri 2:30 Sat-Thu 6
Paa (PG) Fri 8:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-9 Mon-Thu 3-9
Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (STC) Fri 3:45-5:30-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 3-6:15-9:15

QUEENSWAY
1025 The Queensway, 416-503-0424

2012 (14A) Fri-Thu 2-6:25-10
Armored (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:15-9:40
Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:35-6:45-10:10
Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:15-6:15-9:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 12:05-2:30-5-7:30-10:45 Sat-Thu 12:05-2:30-5-7:30-10:10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Thu 1-3:50-6:30-9:25
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:55-6:35-9
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:25-7-10:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 2:15-5:10-8:10:40
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:35-10:15
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:20-6:20-9:10
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:55-9:45
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 11:55-1:20-2:20-4:10-4:55-6:50-7:20-9:30-9:55 No Passes Sun 11:55-1:20-2:20-4:10-4:55-7:20-9:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 11:55-1:20-2:20-4:10-4:55-6:50-7:20-9:30-9:55
The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-3:10-7:25-10:25
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Sat 1:20-4-7:10-10:20 Sun 12:50-4-6:50-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:50-4-7:10-10:20 Fri-Thu 12:10-3:30-6:40-9:50
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1:05-4:05-7:05-10:05
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

WOODBINE CENTRE
500 Rexdale Blvd., 416-213-1998

2012 (14A) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:45-8
Armored (14A) Fri-Thu 12:45-2:50-4:50-7:10-9:20
Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:50-9:30
Invictus (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:45-6:40-9:25
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-2:55-5-7:05-9:15
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Thu 12:35-2:45-4:55-7-9:10
The Princess and the Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:45-4:55-7:05-9:15
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:40

EAST END

BEACH CINEMAS
1651 Queen St. E., 416-699-5971

2012 (14A) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 2-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 6:30-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 4:15-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1-4:15-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:20
Brothers (14A) Fri 4-7-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:45-4-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 7-9:50
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 4:30-7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:30-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:10
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 3:45-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:15-3:45-7:10-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 3:30-6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40

FOX THEATRE
2236 Queen St. E., 416-691-7330

Beyond the Beat Presents (STC) Wed 7
Cairo Time (STC) Fri 9:15 Sat-Mon 7 Tue 9:15 Wed 1:30
Coco avant Chanel (PG) Fri 7 Sat 9 Sun 4-9:15 Mon 9:15 Tue 7
Home Alone (PG) Sat-Sun 2
The Informant! (14A) Thu 9
Sniff: The Dog Movie (STC) Thu 6:30

NORTH YORK

SHEPPARD GRANDE
4861 Yonge St., 416-590-9974

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri-Sat 3:30-6:20-9:20 Sun 12:10-3:30-6:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:20-9:20
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 3:20-6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:45
An Education (PG) Fri 3:50-7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:05-9:40
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri 4:30-7:15-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:15-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:55
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:40-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:50
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri 4:6:50-9:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-4:6:50-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-6:50-9:30
Red Cliff (14A) Fri 5-8:40 Sat-Sun 1:15-5-8:40 Mon-Thu 5-8:40
The Road (14A) Fri 4:20-7:10-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:10-10:05
Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (STC) Fri 5:10-9 Sat-Sun 1-5:10-9 Mon-Thu 5:10-9
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

EMPRESS WALK
5095 Yonge St., 416-223-9550

2012 (14A) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 3-6:50-10:20
Armored (14A) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:20-3:30-5:40-8-10:15 Stadium Seating Sun 1:20-3:30-5:40-10:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-3:30-5:40-8-10:15
Avatar 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 12:01
Brothers (14A) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2:10-5:10-7:40-10:05
Dave Matthews Band 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Wed 1-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10 Stadium Seating, No Passes Thu 1-3:10-5:30-7:50-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 2-5-7:35-10
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:40
Ninja Assassin (18A) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:40 Stadium Seating Sun 1:50-4:30-7:20 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:50-4:30-7:20-9:40
Old Dogs (G) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:05-3:20-5:20-7:30-9:50
Planet 51 (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4-7-9-9:55
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Stadium Seating Sun 8

SILVERCITY YORKDALE 6
3401 Dufferin St., 416-444-3456

2012 (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-6:15-10:20 Sun 1:45-6:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 2-6:30-10:10
Armored (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:50
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:45
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:10-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:05
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 11:45-2:20-5-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 1-3:50-7-9:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:40-4-7:10-10:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 1-3:40-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:45-7:30-10:15
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:10-6:30-9:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:10-6:55-9:20
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12-3:20-6:50-10 Mon-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50-10

SILVERCITY FAIRVIEW
1800 Sheppard Ave. E., 416-644-7746

2012 (14A) Fri-Sat 12-3:20-7-10:40 Sun-Thu 2-6:30-10
Armored (14A) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:10-6:50-9:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:40-6:40-10 Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:55 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:55
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4-7:40-10:30 Sun-Thu 1:10-4-7:40-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:20-9:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sun 12:20-3:50-7:10-10:05 No Passes Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:05
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:40-7:30-10:15
The Princess and the Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:9:45
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:50

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 11 TO THURS., DEC. 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

SCARBOROUGH

KENNEDY COMMONS 20

33 William Kitchen Rd., 416-335-5323

Armored (14A) Special Engagement Fri 3:3:45-5:10-5:55-7:20-8:05-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:25-12:50-1:35-3:3:45-5:10-5:55-7:20-8:05-9:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:3:45-5:10-5:55-7:20-8:05-9:30-10:15

Avatar 3D (STC) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Thu 12:01

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri 4:25-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 11:1:40-4:25-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:10-9:55

The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day (14A) Fri 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:25-2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:10

Couples Retreat (PG) Fri 4:20-9:20 Sat-Sun 11:35-4:20-9:20 Mon-Thu 4:20-9:20

De Dana Dan (PG) Fri 3:05-6:20-9:35 Sat-Sun 11:50-3:05-6:20-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:05-6:20-9:35

Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) Fri 3-5:30-8-10:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:20 Mon-Thu 3-5:30-8-10:20

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 2-4:30-7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-4:30-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7:05-9:40

An Education (PG) Fri 2:40-5:05-7:25-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:40-5:05-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:05-7:25-9:50

Everybody's Fine (PG) Special Engagement Fri 3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 1:05-3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05 Special Engagement Fri 3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 1:05-3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:20-5:35-7:50-10:05

Invictus (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 4-7-10 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4-7-10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 4-7-10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4-7-10 Special Engagement Fri 3:15-6:15-9:15 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 1-4-7-10 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 3:15-6:15-9:15 Kurbaan (14A) Fri 3:05-6:15-9:35 Sat-Sun 11:45-3:05-6:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:05-6:15-9:35

Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri 2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:35-5:05-7:35-10:05 Wed-Thu 5:15-10:05

The Men Who Stare at Goats (14A) Fri 2:45-5:7:15-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-2:45-5:7:15-9:25 Mon-Tue 2:45-5:7:15-9:25 Wed-Thu 3:7:45

Planet 51 (PG) Fri 2:30-4:45-6:55-9:15 Sat-Sun 12:10-2:30-4:45-6:55-9:15 Mon-Thu 2:30-4:45-6:55-9:15

Red Cliff (14A) Special Engagement Fri 3:20-6:30-9:40 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:40

A Serious Man (14A) Fri 2:25-4:55-7:25-9:50 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:25-4:55-7:25-9:50 Mon-Thu 2:25-4:55-7:25-9:50

Up in the Air (14A) Special Engagement Fri 2-2:45-4:30-5:15-7:7:45-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:30-12:15-2-2:45-4:30-5:15-7:7:45-9:30-10:15 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2-2:45-4:30-5:15-7:7:45-9:30-10:15

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Thu 2:05-6:55

WOODSIDE CINEMAS

1571 Sandhurst Circle, 416-299-3456

De Dana Dan (PG) Fri 2:30 Sat-Thu 6

Paa (PG) Fri 8:30 Sat-Sun 12:15-3-9 Mon-Thu 3-9

Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (STC) Fri 3:45-5:30-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:45 Mon-Thu 3-6:15-9:15

PEEL REGION

CINÉ STARZ

377 Burnhamthorpe Rd. E., 905-290-2401

Astro Boy (PG) Fri 12:1:45-3:30-5:15-7 Sat-Sun 12:1:35-6-7:35 Mon-Thu 6

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs (STC) Fri-Sun 12:1:35-3:10-4:45-6:20 Mon-Thu 3:15-6:40

Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Sun 1:45-3:45-5:40-7:35-9:30 Mon-Thu 1:30-3:30-6-8

Pirate Radio (14A) Fri 8:40 Sat-Sun 9:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-3:45-7:45

Prom Night in Mississippi (STC) Fri-Sun 5:30-7:15-9 Mon-Thu 3:25-5-6:35-8:10

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2-3:45

Whip It (PG) Fri-Sun 12 Mon-Thu 1:30

Whiteout (14A) Fri-Sun 7:55-9:40 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:50-8:15

COLISEUM 10

309 Rathburn Rd., 905-275-3456

2012 (14A) Fri-Sun 2-6:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 12:40-4:15-8

Armored (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:40-10:05

Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01 Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

Brothers (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4:20-7-9:45

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:30-10

Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Tue 2-4:30-7-9:20

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Thu 12:30-3-6:15-9

Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri 1:20-4:10-6:40-10:05 Sat-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:15-10:05

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 12:10-1:40-3:15-4:40-6:30-7:50-9:30-10:30 Sat 12:10-3:15-4:40-6:30-7:50-9:30-10:30 Sun 12:10-1:40-3:15-4:40-6:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:45-1:40-3:15-4:40-6:30-7:50-9:30-10:15

Old Dogs (G) Fri 2:10-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:10-5:10-7:45-10:25 Mon-Thu 2:10-5:10-7:45-10:10

Planet 51 (PG) Fri 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:40 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:50-7:20-9:40

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-12:50-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:20 Mon-Wed 12:30-12:50-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-9:50-10:15 Thu 12:30-12:50-3:30-4-6:40-7:10-10:15

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

COURTNEY PARK 16

110 Courtney Park Dr., 905-362-1210

2012 (14A) Fri 2:50-6:25-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:15-2:50-6:25-10:05 Mon-Thu 2:50-6:25-10:05

Armored (14A) Special Engagement Fri 1:15-2:20-3:30-4:40-5:50-7:05-8:10-9:35-10:35 Special Engagement Sat 11:40-2:20-3:30-4:40-5:50-7:05-8:10-9:35-10:35 Special Engagement Sun 11:40-1:15-2:20-3:30-4:40-5:50-7:05-8:10-9:35-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:15-2:20-3:30-4:40-5:50-7:05-8:10-9:35-10:35

Avatar (STC) Thu 12:01 Thu 12:01 The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 1:05-3:55-7-10:10

Brothers (14A) Special Engagement Fri 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:05-1:50-4:35-7:20-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:50-4:35-7:20-10:15

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Digital Fri 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:15 Digital Sat-Sun 11:25-2:05-4:50-7:40-10:15 Digital Mon-Wed 2:05-4:50-7:40-10:15 Digital Thu 1:20-3:50-6:15-8:45

Everybody's Fine (PG) Special Engagement Fri 2:30-5:05-7:35-10 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:50-2:30-5:05-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 2:30-5:05-7:35-10

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 2-4:20-6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 11:30-2-4:20-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 2-4:20-6:45-9:15

Invictus (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Thu 1-4-7-10:10:30

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 2:25-5:15-8:05-10:45 Sat-Sun 11:35-2:25-5:15-8:05-10:45 Mon-Thu 2:25-5:15-8:05-10:45

Old Dogs (G) Fri 1:35-4:05-6:35-9:10 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:35-4:05-6:35-9:10 Mon-Thu 1:35-4:05-6:35-9:10

Planet 51 (PG) Fri 1:45-4:05-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 11:20-1:45-4:05-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 1:45-4:05-6:40-9:20

The Princess and The Frog (G) Special Engagement Fri 2:15-4:55-7:25-9:55 Special Engagement Sat 3:5:30-8-10:40 Special Engagement Sun-Thu 2:15-4:55-7:25-9:55

The Road (14A) Fri-Thu 1:55-4:45-7:30-10:20

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 1:10-3:10-4:10-6:30-7:15-9:40-10:25 Sat-Sun 11:45-1:10-3:10-4:10-6:30-7:15-9:40-10:25 Mon-Thu 1:10-3:10-4:10-6:30-7:15-9:40-10:25

ORION GATE GRANDE

20 Biscayne Cr., 905-455-1590

2012 (14A) Fri 6:15-9:45 Sat-Sun 2-6:15-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:15-9:40

Armored (14A) Fri 4:45-7:40-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:45-7:40-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:40-9:55

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 3:40-6:35-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:35-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:30-9:25

Brothers (14A) Fri 4:25-7:30-10:05 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:30-10

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 3:50-6:55-9:25 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:55-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:55-9:20

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 3:20-6:25-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:25-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:25-6:25-9:30

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 4:35-7:50-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:35-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:25-9:50

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 3:30-6:45-9:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:30-6:45-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-9:10

The Road (14A) Fri 4:15-7:05-9:50 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:15-7:05-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:45

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 4:05-7:15-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:15-10:05

SILVERCITY BRAMPTON

50 Great Lakes, 905-789-6797

2012 (14A) Fri 3:25-7:05-10:45 Sat-Sun 11:55-3:25-7:05-10:45 Mon-Thu 3:30-7:05

Armored (14A) Fri 4:30-7:25-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:30-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:20-9:50

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 3:10-6:30-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:10-3:10-6:30-9:50 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:45

Brothers (14A) Fri 4:45-7:45-10:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:45-7:45-10:40 Mon-Thu 4:45-7:35-10:15

De Dana Dan (PG) Fri 3:50-7:40 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:50-7:40 Mon-Thu 4-7:45 Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 3:30-6:45-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:20

Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 9:10 Mon-Thu 9

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 3-6:20-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:50-3-6:20-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:15-6:20-9:30

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 4:40-7:30-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:40-7:30-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:10

Old Dogs (G) Fri 4:10-6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-6:50-9:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-6:40-9:10

Paa (PG) Fri 3:05-6:15-9:30 Sat-Sun 12-3:05-6:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:10-6:15-9:25 Planet 51 (PG) Fri 3:40-6:10 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:10 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:10

Up in the Air, starring George Clooney, is currently in theatres.

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri 3:45-7:10-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:45-7:10-10:05 Mon-Thu 3:55-7:10-10:05

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 4:15-7-9:45 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:40

Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (STC) Fri 4:20-7:50 Sat-Sun 1:4:20-7:50 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:50

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sat 4-7:20-10:30 Sun 12:45-4 Mon-Thu 4:05-7:25 Fri 3:20-6:40-10 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:40-10 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:50-10

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

SILVERCITY MISSISSAUGA

3055 Vega Blvd., 905-569-3373

Armored (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:40-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:40-10:10

Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:40-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20-10

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:20

Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:40-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:40

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:45-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-7:10-10:20

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 1:15-4:30-7:30-10:05 Sat 4:30-7:30-10:05 Sun 1:15-4:30-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:30-10:05

Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:40-9:10

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:50

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:1-3:20-4:40-5:15-6:50-7:50-9:30-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 2:40-4:10-5:15-6:50-7:50-9:30-10:30

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

SQUARE ONE

100 City Centre Dr., 905-275-2640

The Blind Side (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40

Dave Matthews Band 3D (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 1:15-3:45-7:15-9:45

De Dana Dan (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 2-5:15-9

Everybody's Fine (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1-3:50-7:10-10:10

Invictus (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:50

Paa (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:45-5-8:30

Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:10-4:7:20-10

The Princess and The Frog (G) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:15-1:30-2:45-4:15-5:30-7-8-9:30-10:30

The Road (14A) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 1:20-4:10-7:30-10:15

NORTH

5 DRIVE-IN

2331 Ninth Line, 905-257-8272

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 7:40 Tue 7:40

Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 7:30 Tue 7:30

Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Sun 10:10 Tue 10:10

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 10 Tue 10

Pirate Radio (14A) Fri-Sun 9:25 Tue 9:25

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 7:50 Tue 7:50

AURORA CINEMAS

15460 Bayview Ave., 905-841-1789

2012 (14A) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 2-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 8

Armored (14A) Fri 4:30-7:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:45

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 4-7:10:15 Sat-Sun 1-4-7:10:15 Mon-Thu 7-9:55

Brothers (14A) Fri 4:10-7:20-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:10-7:20-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:20-10

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 3:40-6:45-9:10 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:40-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:45-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30

Old Dogs (G) Fri 4:20-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:40

Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sat 3:45-6:40-9 Sun 1:10-3:45-6:40-9 Mon-Thu 6:40-9

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 5:30-7:50-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3-5:30-7:50-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50-9:15

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:50

COLOSSUS 19

3555 Hwy 7 West, 905-851-1001

2012 (14A) Fri-Sun 2-6:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 6:30-10:10 Fri-Sun 12:10-3:40-7:20-11 Mon-Thu 3:40-7:20

Avatar 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) No Passes Thu 12:01

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:45-10:45 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:35-10:30

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 12:40-1:10-3:45-4:20-6:45-7:25-9:40-10:25 Sat 12:40-3:45-4:20-6:45-7:25-9:40-10:25 Sun 12:40-1:10-3:45-4:20-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:45-4:20-6:45-7:25-9:40-10:25

Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:20-9:10 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:20-9:10

Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon-Wed 4:45-7:15-9:45 Thu 4-6:45-9:10

Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience (STC) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-10 Mon-Tue 4:10-7-9:30

Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:20-10:00 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-3:20-6:20-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 10:15 Mon-Thu 8:50

Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15

Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:20 Mon-Thu 6:10

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:10

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:40

Paranormal Activity (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-5-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 4:50-8:10-10:30

Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:45-9:20

The Road (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-12:50-3:30-4:10-6:40-7:15-9:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 3:30-4:30-6:40-7:40-9:50

WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

ELGIN MILLS 10

10909 Yonge St., 905-770-6998

2012 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:10-7:50 Mon-Thu 8

Armored (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:40-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 6:20-8:45

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:20

Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 6-9

Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:30

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:25-3:20-6:20-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:30-8:15

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sun 10:15 Mon-Thu 8:50

Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:15

Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:20 Mon-Thu 6:10

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:10

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:40

FIRST MARKHAM PLACE

3275 Hwy 7 E., 905-474-5101

2012 (14A) Fri 5:30-9:30 Sat-Sun 2-5:30-9:30 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:50

Armored (14A) Fri 5:7:40-10 Sat-Sun 2:30-5:7:40-10 Mon-Thu 7:40-10

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:30

Brothers (14A) Fri 4:45-7:30-10:30 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:15

Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 3:50-7:10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10:10

Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sat 5:15-7:50-10:40 Sun 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:40 Mon-Thu 7:50-10:30

Old Dogs (G) Fri 3:30-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20

Planet 51 (PG) Fri 4-6:30-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10

The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 4:15-7:10-9:40 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:45-4:15-7:10-9:40 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40

The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 4:30-7:20-10:20 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:20

INTERCHANGE 30

30 Interchange Way, 905-760-1911

Amelia (PG) Fri 2:05-4:50-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 11:20-2:05-4:50-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:20-9:50

Armored (14A) Fri 1:45-2:45-4:5-6:15-7:15-8:45-9:45 Sat-Sun 11:30-12:30-1:45-2:45-4:5-6:15-7:15-8:45-9:45 Mon-Wed 4-5-6:15-7:15-8:45-9:45 Thu 4-5-6:15-7:15-9:45

Astro Boy (PG) Fri 1:50-4:15-6:50-9:15 Sat-Sun 11:15-1:50-4:15-6:50-9:15 Mon-Wed 4:15-6:50-9:15 Thu 4:15-6:50

Big Fan (STC) Fri 1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10:10 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:20-3:30-5:40-7:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 3:30-5:40-7:50-10:10

The Box (14A) Fri 2:10-4:55-7:30-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:25-2:10-4:55-7:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:30-10:05

Brothers (14A) Fri 1:30-2:15-4-4:45-6:45-7:25-9:30-10:05 Sat-Sun 11:11:45-1:30-2:15-4-4:45-6:45-7:25-9:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 4-4:45-6:45-7:25-9:30-10:05

Capitalism: A Love Story (PG) Fri 1:35-4:25-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 10:50-1:35-4:25-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:25-7:10-9:55

Coco Before Chanel (PG) Fri 2-4:35-7:05-9:40 Sat-Sun 11:10-2-4:35-7:05-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:05-9:40

District 9 (14A) Fri-Sun 2:10-7:35 Mon-Thu 7:35

The Fourth Kind (14A) Fri 1:25-4:05-6:30-9:05 Sat-Sun 11:05-1:25-4:05-6:30-9:05 Mon-Wed 4:05-6:30-9:05 Thu 4:05-6:30

The Hangover (14A) Fri 2:25-5:05-7:35-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:25-5:05-7:35-9:50 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:35-9:50

The Informant! (14A) Fri 2:35-5:05-7:35-10 Sat-Sun 11:55-2:35-5:05-7:35-10 Mon-Thu 5:05-7:35-10

Inglourious Basterds (14A) Fri 2:50-6-9:20 Sat-Sun 11:25-2:50-6-9:20 Mon-Thu 6-9:20

The Invention of Lying (PG) Fri 2:25-5:10-7:40-10 Sat-Sun 12:05-2:25-5:10-7:40-10 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:40-10

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 11 TO THURS., DEC. 17. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

Julie & Julia (PG) Fri 6:40 Sat-Sun 1-6:40 Mon-Thu 6:40
Larger Than Life in 3D: Dave Matthews Band (STC) Fri 3-5:15-7:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 10:45-12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:30-9:45
Love Happens (PG) Fri 1:35-4:10-6:55-9:30 Sat-Sun 10:55-1:35-4:10-6:55-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:10-6:55-9:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 1:50-2:15-2:40-4:15-4:45-5:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:15-9:45-10:10 Sat-Sun 10:55-11:30-12:15-1:50-2:15-2:40-4:15-4:45-5:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:15-9:45-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:15-4:45-5:15-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:15-9:45-10:10
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri 1:25-4:10-7-9:40 Sat-Sun 10:50-1:25-4:10-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:10-7-9:40
Precious: Based on the Novel Push by Sapphire (14A) Fri 1:30-2:30-4-5-6:30-7:30-9-10 Sat-Sun 11-11:45-1:30-2:30-4-5-6:30-7:30-9-10 Mon-Wed 4-5-6:30-7:30-9-10 Thu 4-5-6:30-7:30-10
The Princess and The Frog (G) Fri 1:45-2:45-4:15-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:15-12:15-1:45-2:45-4:15-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:15-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG) Fri 4:50-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:40-4:50-10:15 Mon-Thu 4:50-10:15
Up (PG) Fri 3:45-9:35 Sat-Sun 10:45-3:45-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:45-9:35
Where the Wild Things Are (PG) Fri 1:40-4:05-6:50-9:25 Sat-Sun 11:10-1:40-4:05-6:50-9:25 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:50-9:25
Zombieland (14A) Fri 2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:20-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:35 Mon-Thu 4:55-7:15-9:35

PROMENADE MALL
1 Promenade Circle, 416-494-9371

The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:10-6:50-9:15
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:35 Mon 4:15-7:05-9:35 Tue-Thu 1:30-4:15-7:05-9:35 Mon 1
Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian (PG) Sun 11
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:20-5:20-7:25-9:25
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:50-6:45-8:45
The Princess and The Frog (G) Fri-Thu 12:50-3-5:15-7:20-9:20
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Thu 1-4-7-9:30

SILVERCITY NEWMARKET
18151 Yonge St., 905-953-2792

2012 (14A) Fri 6:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 2-6:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:20-9:50
Armored (14A) Fri 4:15-7:05-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:35-4:15-7:05-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:55
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 3:25-6:25-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:25-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:25-6:25-9:35
Brothers (14A) Fri 3:50-6:25-9:05 Sat-Sun 1-3:50-6:25-9:05 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:25-9:05
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 3:45-6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:20
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sat 4:35-7:35-10:15 Sun 1:15-4:35-7 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:35-10:15
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Sat-Sun 1:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 3:40-6:55-10:20 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:55-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:40-6:55-10:20
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Thu 7:45-10:30
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Sat 4:20-7-9:45 Sun 4:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:20-7-9:45
Old Dogs (G) Fri 4:40-7:15-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:45-4:40-7:15-9:40 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:15-9:40
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 4:30-6:45-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:30-6:45-9:15 Mon-Thu 4:30-6:45-9:15
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 5:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15 No Passes Fri 5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:15-7:50-10:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15-7:50-10:25
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 3:30-6:30-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:30-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:25
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

SILVERCITY RICHMOND HILL
8771 Yonge St., 905-709-3199

2012 (14A) Fri-Sat 2:10-6:20-9:55 Sun 2:10-6:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 5-9
Armored (14A) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:50-7:40-10:25 Sun 1:45-4:50-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 4:50-7:35-9:55
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sat 12:35-3:30-6:40-9:45 Sun 12:35-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sat 1:50-4:35-7:45-10:30 Sun 1:50-4:35-7:25-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:35-7:40-10:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sat 2:40-5-7:35-10:15 Sun 1:10-3:40-6:45-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:50-9:10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:05-6:30-9:10 Mon-Thu 4:05-6:20-8:50
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sat 12:30-3:50-7:20-10:40 No Passes Sun 12:30-3:50-7:15-10:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:20
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri 1:25-4:20-7:30-10:10 Sat 4:20-7:30-10:10 Sun 1:25-4:20-9:30 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:30-10
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sat 2:40-5:7:05-9:30 Sun 2-4:45-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:45-7-9:20
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:20-6:10-9 Mon-Thu 3:35-6:10-9:20
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sat 1-4-7-9:50 No Passes Sun 1-4-7-9:45 No Passes Mon-Thu 4-6:55-9:40
The Road (14A) Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:10-10:05 Sun 1:05-4:10-7:10-10 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:05-9:50
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sat 12:40-3:45-6:50-10 Sun 12:40-3:45-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:45
Up in the Air (14A) No Passes Fri-Sat 1:40-4:30-7:25-10:20 No Passes Sun 1:40-4:30-7:30-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:30-7:25-10:10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

HALTON

GALAXY CINEMAS MILTON
1175 Maple Ave., 905-864-1666

The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:40-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:40
Brothers (14A) Fri 7:05-10 Sat 4:10-7:05-10 Sun 1:15-4:10-7:05-10 Mon-Thu 7:05-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 6:30-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:30-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:35
Old Dogs (G) Fri 7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 7:20-9:55
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 7:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4:30-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:45
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 6:45-9:15 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:40-4:20-6:45-9:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:05-10:10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

SILVERCITY BURLINGTON 8
1250 Brant St., 416-646-0444

2012 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-4:05-8 Mon-Thu 8
Armored (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:45-9:10 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:10
Everybody's Fine (PG) Fri-Sat 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:05 Sun 1:20-4:20-10:05 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:05
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 1:35-4:35-7:05 Sat 4:35-7:05 Sun 1:35-4:35-7:05 Mon-Thu 7:05
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-10:20
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 7:15-9:50
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 1:05-3:45-6:50-9 Sat 1:20-3:50-6:50-9 Sun 1:05-3:45-6:50 Mon-Thu 6:50-9
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9:30
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7:05-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:05-10:10
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders & Chairs - 2009 (STC) Sun 8

SILVERCITY OAKVILLE
3531 Wyecroft Road, 905 827-7173

2012 (14A) Fri-Sun 2-6:30-10:05 Mon-Thu 6:30-10:05
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 6:55-10 Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon-Thu 7:30-10:30
Brothers (14A) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:30-7:15-10:10 Mon-Thu 7:15-10:10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:20-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 7:10-9:40
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:40-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50 No Passes Fri-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:30-9:30
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-7:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 7:30-9:45
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:20 Sat 4:15-6:50-9:20 Sun 1:30-4:15-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:20
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:20-4-7-9:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:30
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:20-10:20 Mon-Thu 7:20-10:20 Fri-Sun 1-4-7:10 Mon-Thu 7:10

WINSTON CHURCHILL
2081 Winston Park Dr., Oakville, 905-829-2009

2012 (14A) Fri 1-2-3:30-4:30-5:30-7-8-9-10:30 Sat-Sun 10:30-12-1-2-3:30-4:30-5:30-7-8-9-10:30 Mon-Thu 1-2-3:30-4:30-5:30-7-8-9-10:30
Astro Boy (PG) Fri 2:20-4:40 Sat-Sun 11:40-2:20-4:40 Mon-Thu 2:20-4:40
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Fri-Thu 4:35-10:05
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 1:20-2:05-4:10-4:55-7:05-7:40-9:55-10:40 Mon-Wed 1:20-2:05-4:10-4:55-7:05-7:40-9:55-10:40 Thu 1:20-2:05-4:10-4:55-7:05-7:40-9:55
Couples Retreat (PG) Fri-Thu 2:20-7:55
De Dana Dan (PG) Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 12:50-4-7:15-10:30
An Education (PG) Fri 1:45-7:20 Sat-Sun 11:25-1:45-7:20 Mon-Thu 1:45-7:20
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri 2:30-4:50-7:10-9:30 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:30-4:50-7:10-9:30 Mon-Tue 2:30-4:50-7:10-9:30 Wed 2:30-4:50 Thu 2:30-4:50-7:10-9:30 Fri-Thu 1-3:10-5:30-7:50-10:10
Kurbaan (14A) Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 2:15-5:45-9:15
Larger Than Life in 3D: Dave Matthews Band (STC) Special Engagement Fri 12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:45 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 10:30-12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:45 Special Engagement Mon-Thu 12:45-3-5:15-7:30-9:45
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri 5:05-10:35 Sat-Sun 11:30-5:05-10:35 Mon-Thu 5:05-10:35
Old Dogs (G) Fri 12:45-2:15-3-4:30-5:15-7-7:45-8:30-9:15-10 Sat-Sun 11:40-12:45-2:15-3-4:30-5:15-7-7:45-8:30-9:15-10 Mon-Wed 12:45-2:15-3-4:30-5:15-7-7:45-8:30-9:15-10 Thu 12:45-2:15-3-4:30-5:15-7-7:45-8:30-9:15
Paa (PG) Sub-Titled Fri-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:25
Pirate Radio (14A) Fri 2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:20-2-4:45-7:30-10:15 Mon-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:15
The Road (14A) Fri 2:10-4:55-7:35-10:15 Sat-Sun 11:35-2:10-4:55-7:35-10:15 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:55-7:35-10:15
Rocket Singh: Salesman of the Year (STC) Sub-Titled Fri 2:25-5:50-9:30 Sub-Titled Sat-Sun 11-2:25-5:50-9:30 Sub-Titled Mon-Thu 2:25-5:50-9:30
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 12:50-1:20-2:10-2:50-3:50-4:25-5:10-5:50-7:05-7:40-8:20-9:10:10:45 Sat-Sun 11:10-11:45-12:50-1:20-2:10-2:50-3:50-4:25-5:10-5:50-7:05-7:40-8:20-9:10:10:45 Mon-Wed 12:50-1:20-2:10-2:50-3:50-4:25-5:10-5:50-7:05-7:40-8:20-9:10:10:45 Thu 12:50-1:20-2:10-2:50-3:50-4:25-5:10-5:50-7:05-7:40-8:20-9:10:10
Zombieland (14A) Fri-Thu 7:20-9:40

DURHAM

AJAX
248 Kingston Rd. E, 905-426-7772

2012 (14A) Fri-Sat 6:20-9:45 Sun 2-6:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:20-9:45
Armored (14A) Fri 7:25-10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:25-10 Mon-Thu 7:25-10
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:50-9:55 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:55 Mon-Thu 6:50-9:55
Brothers (14A) Fri 7:15-10:15 Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Mon-Thu 7:15-10:15
Disney's A Christmas Carol (STC) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:25-7-9:30 Mon-Thu 7-9:30
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 7:10-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-4-7:10-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 7:10-10:10
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Thu 7:20-10:05
Old Dogs (G) Fri 6:45-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:25
Planet 51 (PG) Sat-Sun 12:35-3
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 6:55-9:35 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:25-3:35-6:55-9:35 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
The Royal Ballet: The Nutcracker (STC) Sat 1
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50

PICKERING 8
1355 Kingston Rd., 416-646-0444

Armored (14A) Fri 6:45-9:40 Sat-Sun 1-3:30-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:45
The Blind Side (PG) Fri 6:40-10:05 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:15
Brothers (14A) Fri 6:30-10 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:30-10 Mon-Thu 5:45-8:30
Invictus (PG) No Passes Fri 7:05-10:10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:50-3:55-7:05-10:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:05-8:10
Old Dogs (G) Fri 6:55-9:30 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:05-4:30-6:55-9:30 Mon-Thu 5-7:30
Planet 51 (PG) Fri 7:25-9:55 Sat-Sun 12-2:30-5-7:25-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:30-7:50
The Princess and The Frog (G) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 11:50-2:20-4:50-7:20-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri 7:10-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:45-4-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 5:20-8:20

WHITBY 24
75 Consumers Dr., 905-665-7210

2012 (14A) Fri-Wed 11:40-12:15-3-3:45-7-8-10:20
Armored (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sat 11:20-12:15-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:25-8:15-9:45-10:35 Special Engagement Sun 11:20-12:15-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:25-8:15-9:45 Mon-Wed 11:20-12:15-1:30-2:45-3:45-5:15-6-7:25-8:15-9:45
Avatar (STC) Thu 12:01
Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (STC) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 1:30-4:45-7:40-10:30 Mon-Wed 1:30-4:45-7:40-10:30
The Blind Side (PG) Fri-Sat 11:10-1:15-2-4:15-5-7:15-8-10-10:50 Sun-Wed 11:10-1:15-2-4:15-5-7:15-8-10
Brothers (14A) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 11:35-2:05-4:50-7:25-10 Mon-Wed 11:35-2:05-4:50-7:25-10
Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D (STC) Fri 1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50 Sat-Wed 11:10-1:50-4:30-7:10-9:50
Everybody's Fine (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sun 12:05-2:25-4:40-7:10-9:30 Mon-Wed 12:05-2:25-4:40-7:10-9:30
Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) Fri-Wed 11:10-1:30-3:45-6-8:15-10:30
Invictus (PG) Special Engagement Fri-Sat 10:45-1-1:45-4-4:45-7:15-8-10:15-11 Special Engagement Sun 10:45-1-1:45-4-4:45-7:15-8-10:15 Special Engagement Mon-Wed 1-1:45-4-4:45-7:15-8-10:15
Law Abiding Citizen (18A) Fri-Wed 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:15
Ninja Assassin (18A) Fri-Wed 12:20-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50
Old Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 10:45-12:15-1-2:30-3:15-4:45-5:30-7:7:45-9:15-10 Mon-Wed 12:15-1-2:30-3:15-4:45-5:30-7:7:45-9:15-10
Planet 51 (PG) Fri-Wed 11:35-2-4:30-7-9:20
The Princess and The Frog (G) Special Engagement Fri 10-11:15-12:30-1:45-2:45-4:15-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15 Special Engagement Sat-Wed 11:15-12:30-1:45-2:45-4:15-5:15-6:45-7:45-9:15-10:15
The Road (14A) Fri 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:20 Special Engagement Sat-Sun 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon-Wed 12:05-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:20
The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG) Fri-Sat 11-1:1:40-2:10-4:15-4:50-5:20-7:30-7:45-8:30-10:20-10:40 Sun-Wed 11-1:1:40-2:10-4:15-4:50-5:20-7:30-7:45-8:30-10:20

Turn "maybe attending" into "I'm flying in."
heineken.ca

Easy as ABC, 123...4?

Michael Jackson's brothers are planning a world tour as the Jackson 4. The remaining members of the group — Marlon, Tito, Jackie and Jermaine — announced their plans Wednesday for a reunion next year. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Television

Il Divo still has so much more to give fans

ELIZABETH BRAW
for Metro World News

Who said classical music is boring? Simon Cowell's male quartet, Il Divo, continues to awe fans around the world.

Five years ago, American tenor David Miller was enjoying a promising career was an opera singer, including a role in Baz Luhrmann's Broadway production of La Boheme. Then Cowell tapped him as the fourth member of his new classical quartet Il Divo.

"I had no idea what I was getting into," Miller tells Metro. "But I had performed 90 per cent of the operatic roles that were appropriate for my age, and opera singing was becoming too easy."

Il Divo sings Friday at Roy Thomson Hall

Cowell's concept called for four handsome men singing crossover classical music.

> **"Our songs always start softly, then build up and get louder and louder. At the end, people are listening to loud operatic singing without realizing it. "**
> David Miller

Cowell's calculation paid off: Il Divo (the other members are Carlos Marín, Urs Bühler and Sébastien Izambard) has become a pop sensation. Their first album, Il Divo, sold five million copies in less than a year.

"For people who aren't familiar with classical singing, it can seem quite scary," explains Miller.

"We make it less scary. Our songs always start softly, then build up and get louder and louder. At the end, people are listening to loud operatic singing without realizing it.

"They often come up to us afterwards and say 'I never knew opera could be this much fun!'"

New to classical music? David Miller recommends listening to Gustav Holt's The Planets. And, of course, Carmen and La Boheme.

Not surprisingly, women go wild at Il Divo's concerts. But lately, the four handsome men in Armani suits have been bringing their own woman, violinist Anne Akiko Meyers.

"I'm thrilled that they asked me," Akiko Meyers tells Metro.

"I play pieces like Winter from Vivaldi's Four Seasons and several songs with the guys. It's an easy collaboration.

"We're all passionate about music, and audiences appreciate that."

After finishing their current tour, the quartet will take a break before returning to the recording studio in March.

"We want to reinvent Il Divo," says Miller.

"After five albums and done three world tours, we've become a bit predictable. We want to be unpredictable again."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Il Divo, who has recorded five albums and completed three world tours, are singing in Toronto Friday

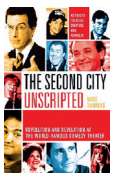
YTV is a trade-mark of the Corus™ Entertainment group of companies.

Second City marks half a century

NED EHRBAR
for Metro World News

As many of its illustrious alumni as it can manage will descend on Chicago this weekend to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Second City — the troupe that spawned a classic sketch comedy TV series and launched the careers of countless comedians, from Gilda Radner and Bill Murray to Tina Fey and Steve Carell.

Two of its most famous member, Catharine O'Hara and Eugene Levy, are particularly looking forward to the reunion — and to sharing the stage again.



IN BOOK STORES: The Second City Unscripted has interviews with its stars and creators.

"I'm much more comfortable with him now than I ever was in the old days," O'Hara admits, as she and Levy have gone on to be mainstays in Christopher Guest's improvisation-inspired films, including Waiting for Guffman, Best in Show and A Mighty Wind, in which they played star-crossed folk singers Mitch Cohen and Mickey Crabbe.

The reunion special also doubles as a benefit for Second City's alumni fund. "They set it up for alumni of Second City who are going through any sort of troubles in their lives and need some financial help," O'Hara explains.

The prospect of reviving favourite characters from the past has its downside, Levy admits.

"We're going to try and bring some of the wigs out of the mothballs," Levy says.

"It's kind of sad in a way, but fun in another — sad to see us now, trying to do the same thing."

Catharine O'Hara and Eugene Levy with the old school City crew

On Wednesday, Second City in Toronto hosts a free improv show featuring some of the alumni who have passed through its doors. METRO WORLD NEWS

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Glee-ing up for a new choral conductor

Following in the footsteps of Kristin Chenoweth and Jonathan Groff, Tony winner Idina Menzel is in advanced talks to join the cast of Glee. If the deal goes through, she'll be playing the choir director for New Directions' rivals, Vocal Adrenaline. EW.COM

The Canadian Press picks top 10 TV shows from the past decade

ARRESTED DEVELOPMENT (2003-2006) It may be the most successful unsuccessful TV show of the decade; an irreverent, wacky sitcom that thrilled its faithful audience while bewildering countless others with its non-sequitur sense of humour.

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER (1997-2003) Before Twilight took a stab at dissecting teen angst with romantic fantasy, this nuanced dramedy sunk its teeth into adolescent pain with a disarming realism that belied its lighthearted, supernatural premise.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS (STARTED 2006) Perhaps nowhere did America seem more real in the past decade than in Dillon, Texas, where residents confronted the Iraq war, racism and unemployment as they cheered on their beloved Panthers.

GILMORE GIRLS (2000-2007) No, the breakneck babble shared between every character is not realistic. Neither is Stars Hollow where the show takes place. But Lorelai Gilmore (Lauren Graham) and her daughter, Rory (Alexis Bledel), are such meticulously drawn characters that they feel like old friends.

LOST (STARTED IN 2004) With compelling characters, spellbinding storylines and mythical symbolism about a bunch of plane-crash survivors on a mysterious tropical island, Lost has brilliantly bridged the gap between the genres of sci-fi and big-network drama.

THE OFFICE (U.K.) (2001-2003) Not only hilarious and unnervingly clever, this British breakout reinvented the sitcom on both sides of the pond with its awkward humour and sly, deadpan delivery.

THE SOPRANOS (1999-2007) When creator David Chase introduced mob boss Tony Soprano (James Gandolfini) to the world, he instantly lifted the traditional pop-culture Mafioso image from one-dimensional caricature to a nuanced enigma

30 ROCK (STARTED IN 2006) With the impossibly clever one-liners and self-referential storylines on 30 Rock, Tina Fey's Liz Lemon has became the decade's Mary Tyler Moore, wowing us with her clever jabs at NBC and pithy pokes at product placement.

VERONICA MARS (2004-2007) The short-lived series was something of a high-school noir, from its masterfully plotted first-season murder whodunit to the way that even its sunny California environs were always shaded in foreboding tones.

THE WIRE (2002-2008) Critics have suggested it's not only the best show of the decade, but TV's best show of all time. The crime drama examined the crooks and cops in crime-plagued Baltimore, giving equal face time to both sides.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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FRIDAY

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/11/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Paradise Found: Islamic Art		Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat		Allan Gregg	Film 101 (N)	Agenda
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Dollhouse Topher discovers the dangers of science.				NUMB3RS (HDTV)		News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two Men	Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition		Vivere V	Omni News:	Simpsons	King of Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	*The Santa Clause 2* ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen.				CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Supernanny (N)		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		The Jay Leno Show		News
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Access H.	Muppets Christmas: Letters		Medium (HDTV)		Spectacle (N)		News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Santa With Muscles* ★ (1996, Comedy) Hulk Hogan.				*Ferris Bueller's Day Off* ★★★ (1986, Comedy)				News at 11
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Access H.	Yes, Virginia	Big Bang Th	Medium (HDTV)		NUMB3RS (HDTV)		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider	Entertainment	Law & Order "Fed"		Dateline NBC (N)		The Jay Leno Show		News
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel	Jeopardy! (N)	Supernanny (N)		Ugly Betty (HDTV) (N)		20/20 (HDTV)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Degrassi	TMZ (N)	Law & Order "Fed"		Law & Order: SVU		Comedy Now	Comedy Now	A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy	Two Men	Dollhouse Topher discovers the dangers of science.				Seinfeld	Two Men	Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	NewsHour	Summer Wine	Ed Sullivan's Rock and Roll Classics: The 60s				Roy Orbison	Wash. Week	Business Rpt.
news	500	500	33	CNN	CNN Tonight (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports	405	417	22	net	OHL Hockey Oshawa Generals at Kingston Frontenacs. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey
	400	400	30	TSN	Hockey	Interruption	Curling 2009 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings -- Women's Semifinals. (HDTV) (Live)						SportsCentre
family	551	542	25	YTV	*Home Alone* ★★★ (1990, Comedy), Joe Pesci				Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird	Got No Head	Adrenaline
	554	544	45	TEL	Batman	Wolverine	Justice	Star Wars	Futurama	King of Hill	*Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow*		
	556	540	51	FAM	Sonny	*Wizards of Waverly Place The Movie*			(9:03) *A Mom for Christmas* (1990)		(10:35) *Hero at Large*		
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami
	575	583	38	CMT	Cross Canada Countdown		Star Crossed	The Show	Home for Christmas (N)		Christmas in Whistler (N)		Doc
	616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny vs.	Kenny vs.	Law & Order: UK		Cra$h & Burn
	294	529	47	TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	House-Payne	House-Payne	Law & Order: SVU		*Road to Perdition* ★★★ (2002)		
	581	566	52	MTV	Impact	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	Cribs	Cribs	Teen Mom		1 girl 5 gays
	603	561	56	FOOD	Ricardo	Eat, Shrink	HEAT	HEAT	Throwdown-Bobby Flay		Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives		Ramsay
	300	601	301	M1	*Powder Blue*	*Freezer Burn: The Invasion of Laxdale*			*Push* ★ (2009, Suspense) Chris Evans.				*Hell Ride* ★

SATURDAY

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/12/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Crucible of Life (N)		*My Beautiful Laundrette* ★★★ (1985)			Interviews (N)	*Eagle vs. Shark* ★★ (2007, Comedy)		
	211	331	3	GTV	renegade	Jane Show	Melrose Place (N)		*Lethal Obsession* (2007, Suspense) Kellie Martin.				News Final
	215	343	4	OMN1	Na Luzie		Svitohliad	Objektyv	Russian Waves		Follow Your Dreams		Jajo's Secret
	210	302	6	CBC	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey: Wild at Canucks		
	214	344	7	CITY	My RONA Home		Glenn Martin	Out There	*Clean* ★★ (2004, Drama) Maggie Cheung. (DVS)				News
	212	313	8	CTV	Laughology (N) (DVS)		*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart. (DVS)						News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.				*Flashdance* ★★ (1983, Drama) Jennifer Beals.				News at 11
	-	387	16	CBS	Paid Program	Paid Program	Rudolph, the Reindeer		*The Flight Before Christmas*		(10:01) 48 Hours		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Paid Program	The Insider	*It's a Wonderful Life* ★★★★ (1946, Comedy-Drama) James Stewart. (DVS)						News
	-	386	18	ABC	Ent. Toronto	Paid Program	*The Polar Express* ★★★ (2004, Fantasy)				Castle (HDTV)		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		*The Magician's House: Secret Cavern* (1999)				Christmas Together		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Paid Program	Paid Program	Cops	Cops	America's Most Wanted		Simpsons	Simpsons	Wanda Sykes
	-	388	61	PBS	Our Town Brantford		Three Tenors Christmas			Angel Voices: Libera in Concert			Guido
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Camp. Brown
sports	405	417	22	net	English Premier League Soccer				Countdown to UFC 107		Poker		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	NFL Presents	Curling	Curling 2009 Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings -- Women's Final. (HDTV) (Live)						
family	551	542	25	YTV	*To Grandmother's House*		Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Got No Head	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	554	544	45	TEL	*A Dennis the Menace Christmas* (2007, Comedy)				Futurama	King of Hill	Chicken	Venture Bros.	Moral Orel
	556	540	51	FAM	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*Ebbie* ★★ (1995, Fantasy)				*Johnny Tsunami* (1999)
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		CSI: Miami
	575	583	38	CMT	One on One-Reba McEntire		Gilmore Girls		Gilmore Girls		*The Sons of Mistletoe* (2001, Drama)		
	616	521	39	SHO	The Guard		*Alice* (2009, Adventure) Caterina Scorsone.				*Resident Evil: Extinction* ★★ (2007)		
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Random Hearts* ★★ (1999, Drama) Harrison Ford.						*Sliding Doors* (1998)
	581	566	52	MTV	Impact	Over Bolts	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season
	603	561	56	FOOD	Glutton	Chef Abroad	Dear Food Network		Chopped		Top Chef: Las Vegas		The F Word
	300	601	301	M1	*Inkheart* ★★ (2009, Adventure) Brendan Fraser.				*Stone of Destiny* (2008, Adventure)			(10:40) *Fugitive Pieces*	

SUNDAY

TO	Vu	SD	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/13/09 primetime	265	353	2	TVO	Centre of the Earth		A Boy Called Alex		Touch of Frost "In the Public Interest"			Empire of the Word	
	211	331	3	GTV	Prod. Parker	Prod. Parker	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	Family Guy	Amer Dad	News
	215	343	4	OMN1	Salt Lake	Business	The Hero and the Queen		To Be Announced		Metropia	Metropia	Vamos
	210	302	6	CBC	Rudolph, the Reindeer		*The Polar Express* ★★★ (2004, Fantasy)				CBC News: The National (N)		fifth estate
	214	344	7	CITY	Survivorman (DVS)		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family"				Conviction Kitchen (HDTV)		News
	212	313	8	CTV	*Transformers* ★★★ (2007, Action) Shia LaBeouf, Tyrese Gibson, Josh Duhamel.						Christmas- White House		News
	218	345	11	CHCH	*Serendipity* ★★ (2001, Romance-Comedy) John Cusack.				*Scrooged* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.				News at 11
	-	387	16	CBS	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The Mentalist (HDTV)		Cold Case "Iced" (N)		Criminal Minds		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17	NBC	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
	-	386	18	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family"				Christmas- White House		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	TMZ (N)		*The Christmas Blessing* (2005, Drama)				Spectacle: Elvis		A News
	-	-	28	FOX	Brothers (N)	Brothers (N)	Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	Amer. Dad	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cold Case
	-	388	61	PBS	Lawrence Welk's TV Treasures				Great Performances				Independent
news	500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Union
sports	405	417	22	net	NFL Football	Sportsnet Connected			Boxing Jelena Mrdjenovich vs. Ann Saccurato.			UFC: Access	Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	Football Night in America		(8:15) NFL Football Philadelphia Eagles at New York Giants. (HDTV) (Live)						
family	551	542	25	YTV	Christmas	Flintstones	He-Man, She-Ra Christmas		ALF	ALF	Survive This	Ghost	Adrenaline
	554	544	45	TEL	Stoked	Total Drama	6TEEN (DVS)		Futurama	King of Hill	Bromwell	Rick & Steve	John
	556	540	51	FAM	Suite Life	Zoey 101	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	*Grumpy Old Men* ★★ (1993, Comedy)			(10:44) *Snow Dogs*	
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	Criminal Minds		Criminal Minds		Jackson Family		Jackson Family		Jacksons
	575	583	38	CMT	Karaoke Star "Halifax"		Rodeo		Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Cheer Moms	Tuckerville
	616	521	39	SHO	Cra$h & Burn		*Alice* (2009, Adventure) Caterina Scorsone.				Found.	Foundatn	Kenny vs.
	294	529	47	TBS	*Forces of Nature* ★★ (1999, Romance-Comedy)				*Forces of Nature* ★★ (1999, Romance-Comedy)				*Emma*
	581	566	52	MTV	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	Peak Season	After	Real World-Road Rules		1 girl 5 gays
	603	561	56	FOOD	Challenge		Get on Plate	Food	Iron Chef America		Dinner: Impossible		Restaurant
	300	601	301	M1	*Outlander*	*Unstable Fables: Tortoise vs. Hare*			Dexter (HDTV)		Dexter "The Getaway"		Dexter

Billboard's top albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Fearless (Platinum Edition), Taylor Swift; 4. Untitled, R. Kelly; 5. The Fame, Lady Gaga. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Audio Blood Media marks one year

CONCERTS Clothes Make The Man's Ryan McLennan is ready for what he calls, one giant indie rock celebration.

The event in question, Audio Blood & Third Estate's Jingle Bell Rock, taking place Saturday at the Horseshoe Tavern, will celebrate the one-year anniversary of Audio Blood Media as a music PR firm — a.k.a. Sari Delmar, who you may have seen featured in Eye Weekly's My Place column last week. Bands represented by the publicist will be on-hand to perform, including McLennan's aforementioned rock quartet, Oh No Forest Fires, Make Your Exit and The Balconies.

Info
- The show takes place Saturday at the Horseshoe Tavern. Cover is $7, doors open at 9 p.m.

An impressive party to be sure, but it's old hat to Delmar, who started Audio Blood Media as an online and print fanzine in Barrie and its surrounding areas in 2003. "It began as an annual thing in Barrie, and it's nice to see how much it's grown," says Delmar. "We used to do the Lions Hall and no one came. Now we've got the Horseshoe Tavern. It's a cool feeling."

BRIAN TOWIE/METRO TORONTO

Samson stripped away

Weakerthans frontman goes solo, helps Constantines mark milestone

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

We know what you're thinking: "John K. Samson ... why does that name ring a bell?"

It shouldn't be a surprise that Samson's name evokes familiarity. He's been around. Punk rockers recall his stint as bassist for Prairie-based political outfit Propagandhi while those who lean towards more radio-friendly music have seen/heard Samson's enticingly soft voice at the helm of indie rockers The Weakerthans for the last 12 years.

Yet when he hits Lee's Palace to perform with indie rock buddies The Constantines — who are celebrating their 10th anniversary — and Attack In Black on Friday, all of that will be stripped away. Samson is currently performing solo in support of his latest endeavour, an EP entitled City Route 85.

While it's not unheard of for lead singers to venture forth with their own music, Samson's foray features a unique twist. The three-song release is his first in a collection of four efforts dedicated to and inspired by his native Winnipeg's streets. Yep, Samson's writing about life on the road but in a very different way.

"Most people wouldn't know it — including most 'Peggers — but City Route 85 is actually our main street commonly referred to as Portage Avenue," he notes whimsically, comparing the Manitoban boulevard to our own Yonge Street and its lesser-acknowledged Highway 11 designation. He continues on to discuss how such a revelation led to the notion of dedicating a series of EPs to municipal and provincial thoroughfares.

"I'm looking at stretches or segments of highway and how the place affects the people, location, landscape and history," he reveals, noting a discovery of how arterial access and geography play a key role in a city's evolution. "It's interesting for people to think about these places in different ways. It sounds like a high school assignment but I wanted to do something really stripped-down; a little research project on three or four locations in Manitoba."

Samson's idea is a strange path of its own. Still, the yield in songs such as Grace General, Cruise Night and the title track make it worthwhile. A collection of light and breezy albeit compelling observations related in Samson's inherently delicate, descriptive manner — songs feel more like stories related over a musical backdrop than typical, basic rhyming couplets squished between guitar riffs — City Route 85 is a grandiose experience compacted into less than 10 minutes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

John Samson's new solo EP City Route 85, is inspired by the streets of his native Winnipeg.

"I like the idea of a focused theme — exploring contemporary small-town life."
John K. Samson

"I like the idea of a focused theme — exploring contemporary small-town life," he beams before admitting the concept still has a lot more, er, road to travel. "So far, it's only a project I work on when I have the time. I have the next one sketched out. It's about a main street North of Winnipeg. It'll have a name and number but the locals know it as Main Street. One set will be north of Winnipeg, one south and ... I don't know about the other one yet."

Constantines gig
- John K. Samson plays Lee's Palace Friday in support of The Constantines, who are celebrating their 10th anniversary. $25 at the door.

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Amazon.ca's best albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. Glee Soundtrack, Vol. 1; 3.My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli, right; 4. Glee Soundtrack, Vol. 2; 5. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jared Leto goes to war

Actor and musician battles label, releases new album with 30 Second to Mars

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Jared Leto might be a famous actor and platinum-selling musician, but even he has major record label headaches to deal with. In August last year, EMI sued Leto's band, 30 Seconds to Mars, for breach of contract.

Yet, the band re-signed with EMI before releasing their latest disc, This is War. "We want to be treated fairly," Leto tells Metro over the phone from Los Angeles. "We did get to a place where EMI addressed the concerns we were fighting for."

Still, it may seem a bit odd that the group would sign to any big label after all the trouble the majors gave the group. The band does have a massive following, so why not go the Radiohead route? It was something they considered.

"We looked at what other bands did," he says. "But Radiohead is now being distributed through a major. I started looking at the options and the reality is we're in a transition time right now. Being DIY still leaves the band having to do what it really doesn't want to, which is running a record company."

This is War is the latest album from 30 Seconds to Mars, which features actor Jared Leto, left.

Leaving all the grunt work to EMI allowed the group to try something completely different on their new record. Dubbed The Summit, the group went to several places around the world — including Toronto and Iran — to record fans playing instruments and singing to their new songs; some of these recordings ended up on the release.

"People did everything from percussion to singing to chanting and stomping," Leto explains. "We wanted to turn the audience away from the band and toward our fans around the world."

Working this into their songs wasn't easy. Leto had to plan for these recordings, even though he didn't know how they would turn out, while he was writing the album. "I had to leave space for the Summit in a way you'd map out strings for a record."

The result is a louder, more epic 30 Seconds to Mars. Partly because of the Summit and also thanks to Leto's love of big stadium sounds, This is War is a cross between distorted, grungy rock and arena-ready U2. It's brash and energetic, while Leto's wails pierce through the blistering drums and Edge-like guitar.

"If we're going to make a CD ... we might as well have fun and celebrate the release."
Jared Leto

There's no doubt the band's fans will enjoy the effort, but just in case they need extra incentive to buy their disc, the group solicited its followers to submit photos for the CDs cover art. The group took the best and printed 2,000 covers.

"We did it to drive the record company crazy," says Leto, laughing. "We all know that most of us, me included, don't buy these very often anymore. If we're going to make a CD and go through the trouble of printing out a piece of plastic and putting songs on it, we might as well have fun and celebrate the release."

Grammys honour Jackson, Cohen

AWARDS Leonard Cohen and Michael Jackson headline a group who will receive lifetime achievement awards from the Grammys next year.

Bobby Darin, David (Honeyboy) Edwards, Loretta Lynn, Andre Previn and Clark Terry will also receive the awards on Jan. 30, the night before the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards.

The award comes after an eventful year for Cohen, whose world tour produced newsmaking moments when the 75-year-old singer collapsed onstage in Spain and when his Israel show was the subject of vigorous protest.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOP 10 RINGTONES
1 Tik Tok Ke$ha
2 Satellite Heart Anya Marina
3 So Hard Rihanna
4 Bad Romance Lady Gaga
5 Whatcha Say Jason DeRulo
6 Fireflies Owl City
7 Party in the USA Miley Cyrus
8 Telephone Lady Gaga
9 I Can Transform You Chris Brown
10 Empire State of Mind Jay-Z
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HMV Canada's top albums
1. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Crazy Love, Michael Bublé; 4. The Fame Monster, Lady Gaga; 5. My World, Justin Bieber. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Crow, Blige join Lilith Fair tour

CONCERTS

McLachlan

Sheryl Crow, Mary J. Blige, Sugarland and Erykah Badu are among the artists who will join Sarah McLachlan during her revived Lilith Fair tour in 2010.

Canadian indie-pop duo Tegan and Sara, Toronto new-wave rockers Metric, and soul singer and actress Jill Scott are also among the artists announced. Other performers include Emmylou Harris, Chantal Kreviazuk and Indigo Girls.

The all-female touring festival drew more than 1.5 million fans between 1997 and 1999 in its original incarnation.

Earlier this year, organizers announced the festival would return next summer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Best new music of 2009

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metronews.ca/soundcheck

This is the time of year — and the time of decade (more on that next week) — to make lists. I like lists. They make life so much more orderly. Here's my top ten albums of 2009 in order of release date.

To Lose My Life, White Lies (Released Jan. 12): How can a bunch of guys barely into their twenties already sound so world-weary? Smooth, accomplished and very mature. I knew this was going to be on my best-of list the first time I heard it.

Ruins of Berlin, Dex Romweber Duo (Feb. 10): Some of the scariest psychobilly I've ever heard. Check out Dex's sister wailing on The Wind Did Move.

Primary Colours, The Horrors (May 5): Primary colours? The only colour that matters here is black — and that'll have to do until something darker comes along. If you're hoping for a shoegazer revival, it might have started here.

Vickatimest, Grizzly Bear, (May 26): The hipster bloggers got this one right. Hugely ambitious and challenging yet understandable and accessible. Can't wait for the next album.

Lungs, Florence + The Machine (July 7): Florence Welch looks like she stepped out of a Renaissance painting (and with good reason — she comes from a long line of art historians). Brilliant, bewitching, beguiling and wonderfully quirky. Kate Bush/Tori Amos fans take note.

Grizzly Bear's Vickatimest is one of Alan's top albums of the year.

Horehound, Dead Weather (July 14): I can just hear the voicemail from Jack White's wife: "Honey? Can you take a break and maybe come home so you can learn the names of your children?"

Backspacer, Pearl Jam (Sept. 22): Eddie and the guys get back to basics with a short, concise and optimistic album that rocks better than anything they've released in years.

Black Gives Way to Blue, Alice in Chains (Sept. 29): Against the odds, they pull it off with a new singer. Dark, muscular and complex, it's a reminder of AIC's original potential. There may yet be a second act for these guys.

Landing, Githead (Nov. 10): Surely the greatest album of 2009 that no one's heard. Featuring Colin Newman of Wire, the album harkens back to the post-punk art-rock of the late 70s.

Them Crooked Vultures, Them Crooked Vultures (Nov. 17): A supergroup that actually lives up to its promise. Imagine that.

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the hot ticket

by Enza Anderson

Enza brings Metro readers the weekly scoop on Toronto's hottest parties and events.

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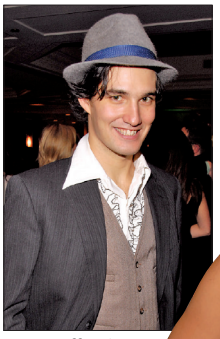
Actor David Light, left, and partner Matt Thomas.



Actor Jeff Irving (Robin Hood).

Cast member Adam Stevenson with party guests Kylee Evans, left, and Laura McCarthy.

ROBIN HOOD and his lady, Maid Marian, hosted Sherwood Forest's denizens with an opening night celebration at the King Edward Hotel. The cocktail gathering marked the medieval avenger's return in the holiday classic, Robin Hood: The EnvironMental Family Musical, at the Winter Garden Theatre. Partner in crime Friar Tuck added his blessings to the festivities while little ones stole sweet treats from the decadent dessert table.

LEFT: Actor Eva Avila (Maid Marian).

Show director Ted Dykstra with wife Melanie Doane.

Actor Jessica Holmes (Eyuba, Queen of the Forest).

Ensemble actors Justin Stadnyk, left, and Stephen Roberts with guest Alicia Toner.

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Busey expecting first child

Gary Busey and girlfriend Steffanie Sampson are expecting their first child, TVGuide.com has confirmed. "Mr. Busey is thrilled and excited about the upcoming birth of his new son," his publicist Vicki Roberts, said TVGUIDE.COM

Going Out

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Inglourious Basterds

DVD Quentin Tarantino's gloriously irreverent Second World War epic ups the ante on everything you love about movies — action, drama, suspense, humour, plain *badassery*, it's all here. And, for the record, it's not Pitt's film. It belongs to one German dude called Christophe Waltz.

2 Invictus

FILM When it comes to consistency in Hollywood, Clint Eastwood is as reliable as it gets. In his latest offering, about a game of rugby that united a post-apartheid South Africa, the director seems to have a winner once again. Matt Damon stars but all the buzz is around Morgan Freeman, who plays Nelson Mandela. Mr. Oscar's taking notes.

3 Charlotte Gainsbourg

CELEBRITY Belle de jour? You betcha! French pop icon Serge Gainsbourg's daughter made waves earlier this year for her shocking role in Antichrist. Now, she's released a hypnotic new album called IRM (MRI in French) in collaboration with Beck.

4 The Onion Presents Our Front Pages: 1988-2008

BOOK One of the world's funniest "newspapers" compiles its finest cover pages. Sample headlines: Canada signs non-aggression pact with the United States (1990); New Starbucks opens in rest room of existing Starbucks (1998). Enough said.

5 Touch Pets: Dogs

APP Get your fingertips wagging with a cuddly canine of your choice with this social game. The app uses uses an energy system. You collect puppy bucks for participating in training exercises, "career" advancement and more.

6 Spectacle

SERIES The second-season opener of Elvis Costello's music show is quite the spectacle. He has locked in Bono and The Edge for the episode, who perform several U2 hits. Spectacle airs Friday on CTV. Check local listings for times.

7 Dexter Season 4 Finale

TV Kudos to John Lithgow (and the writers) for adding some fresh dramatic blood to this crime series. If the last few episodes are any indication, the finale will be one big nail biter. Season 4's episode 12 airs Sunday.

Mix of Six

Ship of Fools

When: Friday, 9 p.m.
Where: Music Gallery

Ship of Fools pairs music mash-ups with visual projections to relate the odyssey of 11 fools trapped on a boat. $20.

The Toronto Small Press Book Fair

When: Saturday
Where: 1214 Queen W.

This free event offers a wide selection of novels, zines, audiobooks, magazines, comics and graphic novels. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Do Make Say Think

When: Saturday to Monday
Where: Enwave Theatre

The jazz/psych/electronica mini-orchestra saved the best for last, returning home to wrap up their intercontinental tour.

Iron Age

When: Sunday, 8 p.m.
Where: Siesta Nouveaux

On Iron Age's second album, The Sleeping Eye, metal is awake, kicking and way louder than a blacksmith with a hammer. $12.

The Legendary Klopeks

When: Sunday, 6:30 p.m.
Where: Kathedral

Profits go to The Princess Margaret Hospital's Cancer Research Center. $7.

Jazzy Jeff

When: Saturday
Where: The Big Three-O

Jazzy Jeff plays with Starting From Scratch, honouring DJ Jiggz's 30th birthday.

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Going off The Deep End

ABC has set a date to kick off The Deep End. The network will premiere the new legal drama on Jan. 21, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The trade paper reports the series will premiere in FlashForward's timeslot. TVGUIDE.COM

Hockey Hall of Fame

- The Complete Olympic Medals Collection, can be seen at the Hockey Hall of Fame, in downtown Toronto, until Jan. 15.
- The general admission price is $15.00. Youth (4yrs-13yrs) is $10.00. Senior (65yrs+) admission is $12.00 Children 3 and under is free.

Precious medals uncovered

Hockey Hall of Fame exhibit shows designs dating back to 1896

JOHN KEILLOR
for Metro Canada

The tradition of awarding Olympic medals dates back to 1896, and since then every medal design has been different.

A unique collection featuring every Olympic medal design in history exists only in Switzerland, and it's never been outside the Olympic Museum — until now.

Phil Pritchard, the keeper of Lord Stanley's Cup, has bought the collection to Toronto's Hockey Hall of Fame. Moving those medals turned out to be special mission.

"The magnitude of the travel insurance issue was something we'd never dealt with before," says Pritchard by phone. "In the end, (we) had to bring in them by hand. That was a real eye opener at the border, when we were asked if we had anything to declare.

The Olympic medals exhibit will be in Toronto until Jan. 15.

"It's a much bigger deal than, say, bringing a bottle of wine into the country," he adds.

Pritchard and a colleague transported the near-priceless payload first by train from Lausanne to Geneva and then to Zurich. From there they flew to Toronto. "It was an honour to carry them, "says Pritchard, "just like hoisting the Cup is."

The collection includes examples of every Olympic medal design, including all the Winter Olympic medals, which started in 1920.

The Winter Olympic medals have had no design restrictions at all. They're like a history of what we imagine victory looks like. For Pritchard, they constitute a diplomatic coup.

"The exhibit is part of our building relations with the IIHF (International Ice hockey Hall of Fame)," explains Pritchard, "Our only regret is that we can't keep the exhibit longer."

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Going Away

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A private paradise unfolds

Gulf Islands National Seashore offers quiet escape in off-season

I'm sitting on a powdery white beach lapped by gentle turquoise waves as I eat a pear and "work" on my travel story about Gulf Islands National Seashore.

It seems life couldn't get much better — but it does.

I've encountered only one other bicyclist so far on my 22.5 km, round-trip trek along this breathtaking stretch of Florida Panhandle beach.

I've escaped into a private paradise in this normally busy national park where the high-rise condominiums of Pensacola Beach loom in the distance and the outline of Pensacola Naval Air Station appears across the bay.

From March to September, this barrier island teems with tourists revelling in the warm Gulf waters and famous white quartz beaches.

But the tourists clear out as winter sets in, days get shorter and the kids head back to school.

MELISSA NELSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As the tourists clear out, the Gulf Islands National Seashore becomes a private beach paradise.

A 22.5-km beach hike makes for sore calf muscles and thighs.

The physical effort is well-rewarded, though, as I walk barefoot through waves and pick through shells deposited by recent rough waters. I spot a school of stingray gliding about five feet offshore and see dolphins swimming in the distance.

I ride along the beach on my bike, a three-year-old, $100 Schwinn — expensive bikes are not suggested for slugging through sand and water.

I can see a road crew that I had passed hours earlier, working just off the beach.

They are using the downtime in the tourist season to repair the weathered roads.

It will reopen to car traffic soon enough.

But for now at least, Mother Nature has claimed a brief victory over man and I enjoy my private beach paradise.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELISSA NELSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bikers ride along the beach at Gulf Islands National Seashore.

2004

Beach-front parking lots and campgrounds, just reopened this year after it was largely washed away in 2004 by Hurricane Ivan.

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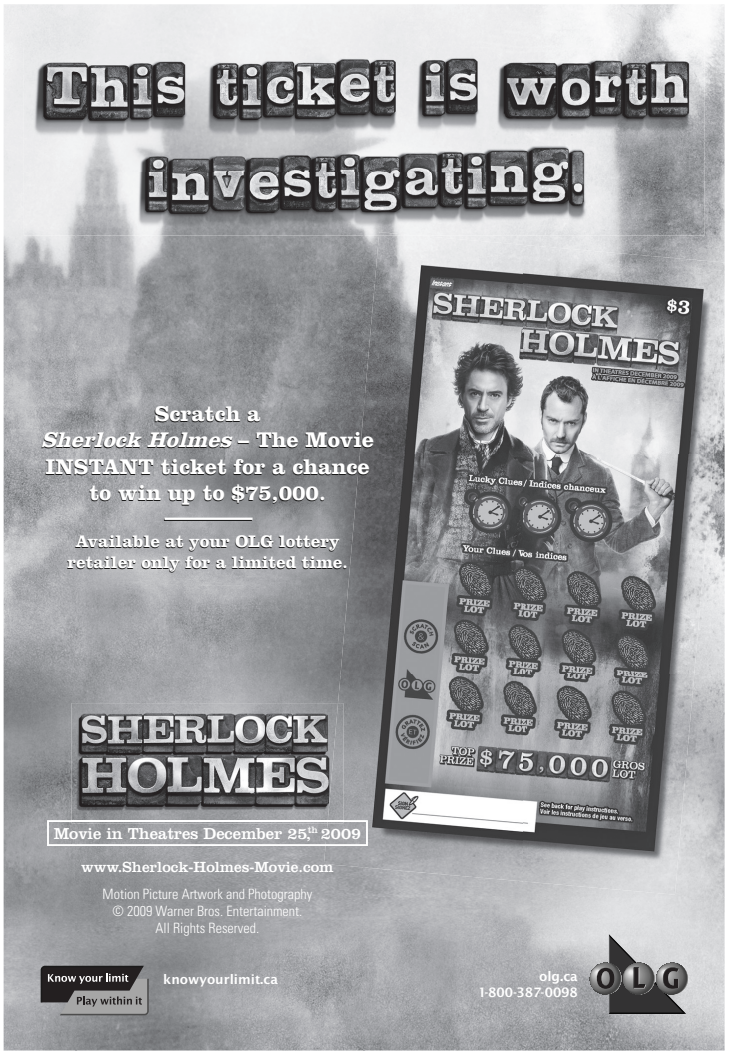


Party all night long

The 7th edition of Nuit blanche à Montréal, taking place on Feb. 27, will have more than than 175 mostly free activities. A free shuttle service will connect fans to activity sites and for a second year, the subway will remain open all night long. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Light up your taste buds in Montreal

11th annual High Lights Festival will showcase Portuguese chefs and winemakers this year

The foods and wines of Portugal will be a culinary theme of the 11th annual Montreal High Lights Festival, the city's annual mid-winter celebration of gastronomy, performing arts and culture.

Fausto Airoldi, described by organizers as "a major player in Lisbon's culinary revival," will be part of a delegation of 39 Portuguese chefs and winemakers to showcase their offerings at special meals and foodie events.

Airoldi, who cooks at the chic Spot Sao Luiz restaurant in Lisbon's Chiado area, will take over Ferreira Cafe near McGill University to present a six-course meal.

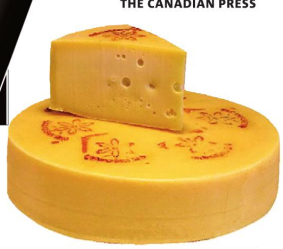
Vintners from the Portuguese wine regions of Douro, Alentejo, Estremadura and Beiras will discuss their wines and offer them at tastings and meal pairings in Montreal restaurants.

While Portugal has been selected as the festival's featured country, the featured city is New Orleans and the featured Quebec region is the Eastern Townships. Chefs from several Big Easy restaurants — including Le Meritage, Galatoire's, Cochon, Cafe Giovanni, Iris, and Wolfe's in the Warehouse — are slated to cook at the festival.

And Jean-Talon Market will be the setting for demonstrations, tastings and conferences highlighting the edibles of south-east Quebec. Montreal High Lights runs from Feb. 18 to 28.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Montreal's High Lights Festival is the city's annual celebration of food, wine, arts and culture.



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Come back with memories… not malaria. Before you travel, talk to a doctor.

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Yeah, we don't get it either
Georgia May Jagger was named Model of the Year at the British Fashion Awards lon Wednesday night, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 17-year-old is the daughter of Jerry Hall and Mick Jagger. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Is Jessica romancing a Pumpkin?

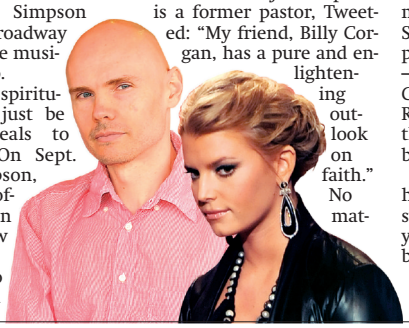
AT MIDNIGHT HE TURNS INTO A HAS-BEEN ROCK STAR Jessica Simpson and Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan have started dating — and are taking things slow, says a source close to the pop star, people.com reports. "They are getting to know each other," says the source. "He's a nice guy."

On Friday, Simpson, 29, and Corgan, 42, were spotted together in New York City. She was in town earlier in the week for sister Ashlee Simpson Wentz's Broadway debut in the musical Chicago.

Corgan's spirituality may just be what appeals to Simpson. On Sept. 11, Simpson, who has often spoken about how important God is to her and whose father, Joe Simpson, is a former pastor, Tweeted: "My friend, Billy Corgan, has a pure and enlightening outlook on faith." No matter where this new romance heads, a friend of Simpson's says she is happy that she is dating again — especially after Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo broke up with her the night before her 29th birthday this summer.

"She's a great girl," says her friend. "She's really sweet. She's had a tough year. She deserves the best."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Alexa Ray's folks lash out at media

GET WELL SOON, KIDDO In light of some media coverage of their daughter Alexa Ray Joel's recent hospital stay, her parents, Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley, have issued a statement to the media, people.com reports.

It reads: "Every parent can imagine the pain and anguish we face as parents of a daughter who is working to recover from the dangerous actions she took while suffering a devastating heartbreak.

"As much as we hate dignifying tabloid stories with a response, we feel we must set the record straight to protect our family. The story that ran in the New York Post on December 8th, and has been subsequently spread across the Internet, is filled with vicious lies and attempts to smear our character and that of our beloved daughter."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity tweets

John Mayer muses about cheating, Kirstie Alley tries to lead Tiger out of the Woods, Nicole Richie has career advice for Big Bird, and Hugh Hefner continues to gross us out.

• @johncmayer If a man really wanted to get away with cheating on his woman, he'd store his other girls' name in his phone as "low battery."

• @kirstiealley I beg Mr. Woods to REFUSE to pay his extorters.Let em sell their idiot stories Just step up and give $ to people who really need it.FORGIVEN

• @nicolerichie How did Elmo end up the star of Sesame Street? When I was little it was all about Big Bird! Now hes a has-been. He needs a good scandal.

• @hughhefner Things are getting serious with Crystal and me. I love the girl.

METRO WORLD NEWS

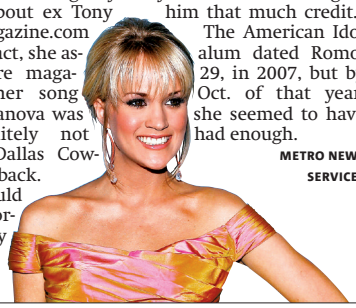
Underwood: Romo didn't inspire any of my songs

THERE GO ALL MY 'BEFORE HE CHEATS' THEORIES Carrie Underwood isn't writing any sad songs about ex Tony Romo, usmagazine.com reports. In fact, she assures Esquire magazine that her song Cowboy Casanova was most definitely not about the Dallas Cowboys quarterback.

"No, I would never immortalize a guy that did me wrong," the 26-year-old country star says. "I would never give him that much credit."

The American Idol alum dated Romo, 29, in 2007, but by Oct. of that year, she seemed to have had enough.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Levi's Playgirl cover brings in lumpy sales

HANG OUT THERE, LEVI It seems that Levi Johnston's big old Playgirl.com reveal was a bit flaccid in sales department, popeater.com reports

"Nowhere near enough people paid the $19.95 to cover the reported $150,000 the fading brand paid the Alaskan hunk to go rogue," a magazine source tells the website. METRO NEWS SERVICES

NFL star claims Tila lied about assault

SHOTS AT TEQUILA San Diego Chargers superstar Shawne Merriman is suing his former girl friend Tila Tequila, claiming she lied about claims Merriman beat her up back in September in an attempt to ruin his career, TMZ.com

In the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court, Merriman claims Tila posted all sorts of lies on her website, including stories that Merriman "choked and attacked" her, "sleeps with minors and forces them to take drugs," and that he manufactures drugs in his home.

Merriman also claims in the documents that Tequila admitted her lying scheme, at one time stating, "yes that is why I did a 'spin' now ... cuz now everyone is LOVINGGGG me.'

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Could Jake be planning a Yuletide proposal?

HE DOES HAVE A NEW MOVIE TO PROMOTE Reese Witherspoon has apparently been a very good girl, because Santa Claus (a.k.a. Jake Gyllenhaal) is supposedly going to pop the question to his gal pal over the holidays, Naughty But Nice is exclusively reporting.

Just days after a false rumor circulated that the cute couple had split, Gyllenhaal apparently decided the time was right to settle down and buy the ring. "Her children love him, his family loves her and now it's time to make it official," a source said.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie excited to take kids to new Disney flick

MICKEY JUST GOT THE BEST PR EVER Heading to the movies this weekend to see Disney's new Princess and the Frog film? There's a chance you might be sitting next to the world's most famous mother, Angelina Jolie.

The megastar, who has four children of different ethnic backgrounds, "can't wait to take her children to see Disney's first black princess," a source tells popeater.com. "Her daughter Z (Zahara) loves playing princess around the house and has watched Brandy's TV version of the musical Cinderella so many times that she knows all the words."

METRO WORLD NEWS

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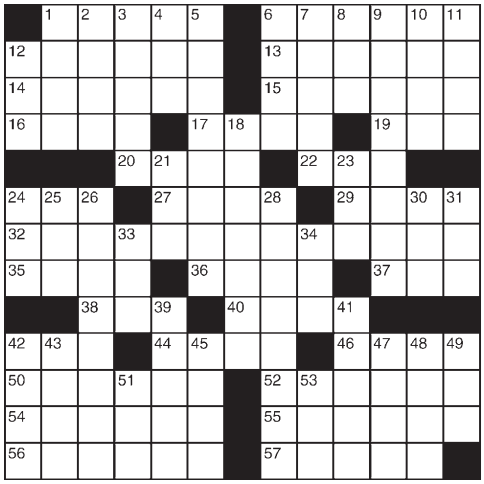
Saturday Partly cloudy 0° / -4°

Sunday 60% Flurries 2° / -1°

TAKE THE WEATHER WITH YOU visit mobile.theweathernetwork.com

Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food



ACROSS

1 Exact moment
6 Ducks
12 Sweatshirt type
13 Strip
14 Against difficulties
15 Starbucks size
16 Mexican money
17 Rams fans?
19 Dancer Charisse
20 Partner
22 Keatsian piece
24 — de deux
27 Siamese
29 On the rocks
32 Rare
35 Lowly laborer
36 Corner
37 Opposite of "post-"
38 Kvetch
40 Took to the skies
42 Copper head?
44 Oldies player
46 Status in a hierarchy
50 Press hard, as brakes
52 Fan, and then some
54 Majestic
55 Show hosts
56 "Allakazam!"
57 Fists, slangily

DOWN

1 Vatican VIP
2 Ahs' partners
3 Figure of speech
4 Goose egg
5 Fundraising show
6 Advantage
7 Lefthand page
8 Ortiz of "Ugly Betty"
9 Mortarboard's opposite?
10 Vortex
11 Start a garden
12 Cadence-call syllable
18 Gradually disappear
21 — standstill
23 Noise
24 Vim and vigor
25 Chopper
26 Old time?
28 Put on a pedestal
30 Screw up
31 Coloring agent
33 Geneticist's abbr.
34 Mamie's hubby
39 Common Halloween costume
41 Destruction
42 Now, initially
43 Vision problem
45 Grooving on
47 Sheltered
48 Yeses' undoers
49 Gold units (Abbr.)
51 Greek consonants
53 Flightless bird

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2	1						4	6
			8		4			
4		3				9		7
		4	3		9	1		
	6						2	
		8	6		2	5		
8		9				2		5
			7		5			
1	5						7	9

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

1	8	7	2	6	4	9	5	3
4	3	9	7	8	5	6	1	2
5	2	6	9	3	1	8	4	7
9	1	3	6	2	8	4	7	5
7	6	5	1	4	9	3	2	8
8	4	2	3	5	7	1	9	6
6	9	8	4	7	2	5	3	1
2	5	4	8	1	3	7	6	9
3	7	1	5	9	6	2	8	4

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Creamy Liver with Leeks and Bacon

INGREDIENTS:

6 strips bacon, chopped
1 lb (500 g) calf's liver, thinly sliced
2/3 lb (300 g) baby leeks, sliced diagonally
2 tsp (10 ml) oil, if needed
1 1/3 cups (325 ml) beef stock
2 tbsp (25 ml) balsamic vinegar
4 tbsp (60 ml) heavy cream

METHOD:

1. Heat wide sauté pan and fry bacon over fairly high heat 4-5 minutes or until golden brown. Lift out with slotted spoon.
2. Add liver to pan and fry quickly about 2 minutes per side or until evenly coloured. Remove and keep hot with bacon.
3 Add leeks to pan, with oil if needed, and fry for 30 seconds, stirring. Stir in stock and heat until boiling. Simmer 2-3 minutes or until leeks are just tender.
4 Stir in balsamic vinegar and return liver and pancetta or bacon to pan. Stir in heavy cream. Bring to boil. Adjust seasoning to taste and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will get a huge burst of extra energy today as the Sun makes the best possible angle to your ruler Mars.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Family and financial matters will take up most of your time today but if you knuckle down you won't have to worry about them again for quite some time.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
If there is something you have done that you are less than proud about now is a good time to own up and get it off your conscience.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Good news is coming your way and it is the kind of news you will want to share, so spend time with friends and family and put work plans on hold.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
Why is everyone so cautious and fearful? Whatever the reason there is no reason why you should let their negative attitude rub off on you.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't be afraid to take a few chances today and don't be suspicious if someone in a position of power offers you something you have long desired.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
This is the kind of day when you will want to get things done, but because others are not so ambitious you may have to go it alone.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will find it easy enough to convince people to support you today, even if they don't quite believe that you know what you are doing.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Some people seem to be under the impression that you will be there for them every hour and every minute of every day.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't give in too easily today, especially on the work front where colleagues and employers will happily take advantage if you don't stand up for yourself.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
There is no point dwelling on what might have been and the good news today is that you will be too busy having fun to worry about failures.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Today's cosmic alignment can help you break a habit that once held you up but is now holding you back.

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Free • When travel takes you to a new place, AroundMe can quickly find nearby businesses from the nearest bank to the closest gas station then route them for you using your iPhone's GPS.

Convertbot
$0.99 • Convert currency, length, mass, time and more. Convertbot's simple, intuitive interface makes conversion easy, even handling mixed units, like feet and inches.

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TELUS | iPhone 3GS

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